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BRITISH AUTHORS.
VOL. CLXXI.

THE HISTORY OF SAMUEL TITMARSH

AND

THE BOOK OF SNOBS

BY

W. M. THACKERAY.

IN ONE VOLUME.

COLLECTION

OR

BRITISH AUTHORS

VOL. CXXI

THE HISTORY OF SAMUEL JOHNSON

AND

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYERS

BY

H. M. J. J. J. J.

IN ONE VOLUME

THE HISTORY
OF
SAMUEL TITMARSH
AND
THE GREAT HOGGARTY DIAMOND;
THE
BOOK OF SNOBS.

BY
W. M. THACKERAY.

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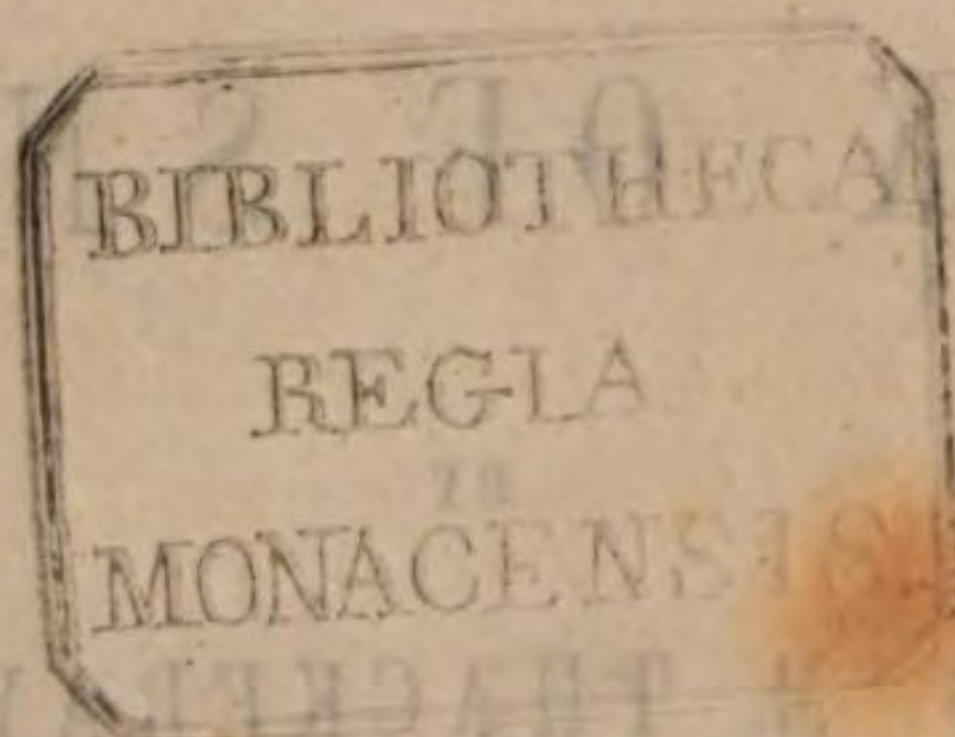
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THE HISTORY

SAMUEL TITMUSH

THE GREAT HOGWALT DIAMOND



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1849

CONTENTS.

I.

THE HISTORY OF SAMUEL TITMARSH AND THE GREAT HOGGARTY DIAMOND.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I. Gives an account of our village, and the first glimpse of the diamond	1
CHAPTER II. Tells how the diamond is brought up to London, and produces wonderful effects both in the City and at the West End.	7
CHAPTER III. How the possessor of the diamond is whisked into a magnificent chariot, and has yet further good luck	19
CHAPTER IV. How the happy diamond-wearer dines at Pen- tonville	31
CHAPTER V. How the diamond introduces him to a still more fashionable place	35
CHAPTER VI. On the West Diddlesex Association, and of the effect the diamond had there	43
CHAPTER VII. How Samuel Titmarsh reached the highest point of prosperity	52

	PAGE
CHAPTER VIII. Relates the happiest day of Samuel Titmarsh's life	64
CHAPTER IX. Brings back Sam, his wife, aunt, and diamond, to London	71
CHAPTER X. Of Sam's private affairs, and of the firm of Brough and off	85
CHAPTER XI. In which it appears that a man may possess a diamond and yet be very hard pressed for a dinner	99
CHAPTER XII. In which the hero's aunt's diamond makes ac- quaintance with the hero's uncle	109
CHAPTER XIII. In which it is shown that a good wife is the best diamond a man can wear in his bosom	123

II.

THE BOOK OF SNOBS.

PREFATORY REMARKS.	139
CHAPTER I. The Snob playfully dealt with	143
CHAPTER II. The Snob royal	147
CHAPTER III. The Influence of the aristocracy on Snobs	151
CHAPTER IV. "The court circular" and its influence on Snobs	155
CHAPTER V. What Snobs admire	159
CHAPTER VI. On some respectable Snobs	163

	PAGE
CHAPTER VII. On some respectable Snobs	166
CHAPTER VIII. Great City Snobs	171
CHAPTER IX. On some Military Snobs.	175
CHAPTER X. Military Snobs	179
CHAPTER XI. On Clerical Snobs	183
CHAPTER XII. On Clerical Snobs and Snobbishness.	186
CHAPTER XIII. On Clerical Snobs	190
CHAPTER XIV. On University Snobs	193
CHAPTER XV. On University Snobs	198
CHAPTER XVI. On Literary Snobs	201
CHAPTER XVII. A little about Irish Snobs	204
CHAPTER XVIII. Party-giving Snobs	208
CHAPTER XIX. Dining-out Snobs.	212
CHAPTER XX. Dinner-giving Snobs further considered	216
CHAPTER XXI. Some Continental Snobs	221
CHAPTER XXII. Continental Snobbery continued	225
CHAPTER XXIII. English Snobs on the Continent	229
CHAPTER XXIV. On some Country Snobs	233
CHAPTER XXV. A visit to some Country Snobs	237
CHAPTER XXVI. On some Country Snobs	242
CHAPTER XXVII. A visit to some Country Snobs	246
CHAPTER XXVIII. On some Country Snobs	249
CHAPTER XXIX. A visit to some Country Snobs	254
CHAPTER XXX. On some Country Snobs	258
CHAPTER XXXI. A visit to some Country Snobs.	262
CHAPTER XXXII. Snobbium gatherum	266
CHAPTER XXXIII. Snobs and Marriage	271

	PAGE
CHAPTER XXXIV. Snobs and Marriage	274
CHAPTER XXXV. Snobs and Marriage	279
CHAPTER XXXVI. Snobs and Marriage	284
CHAPTER XXXVII. Club Snobs	289
CHAPTER XXXVIII. Club Snobs	293
CHAPTER XXXIX. Club Snobs	296
CHAPTER XL. Club Snobs	299
CHAPTER XLI. Club Snobs.	304
CHAPTER XLII. Club Snobs	306
CHAPTER XLIII. Club Snobs	311
CHAPTER XLIV. Club Snobs	315
CHAPTER LAST	318

THE HISTORY
OF
SAMUEL TITMARSH
AND
THE GREAT HOGGARTY DIAMOND.

BY
W. M. THACKERAY.

PREFACE

TO THE HISTORY OF SAMUEL TITMARSH, &c.

My kind friends, the publishers of this little book, appear to have a very high opinion of the virtue of prefaces, and demand one for the present occasion in terms so urgent that it is impossible to refuse a compliance with their petition.

The story appeared originally in "Fraser's Magazine," in the year 1841, and was written at a time when the writer himself was suffering under the severest personal grief and calamity. Those who are curious in such points of literary biography, may thus account for a certain sobriety and melancholy which pervades this little tale. As I read it myself, after a seven years' lapse, I can recall the circumstances under which it was written, and the thoughts, other than those on the paper, which accompanied the author through his work.

The tale, which was always a favourite with its writer, was not particularly well received at the time of its first appearance; or noticed, except by one or two persons,

one of them the late John Sterling, who wrote me a letter concerning it, which gave me at that time a great comfort and pleasure. Other literary aspirants may be consoled for their own failures by hearing that this story was refused by one magazine before it found a place in "Fraser;" nor was it until the success of "VANITY FAIR," (which work was refused by a magazine too,) that I found, or perhaps sought, publishers bold enough to venture upon producing the "Hoggarty Diamond" in its present connected shape.

Those enterprising men are anxious that the moral of the tale, viz., that speculations are hazardous, and that honesty is the best policy, should be specially pointed out to the British public. But that moral is spoken a thousand times every year. Are not the newspapers full of advertisements about California? Have we not the Railway Share List as a constant monitor? It was after paying a call, with a very bad grace, that I thought to myself ruefully, — why did I not remember the last page of the "Great Hoggarty Diamond?"

Because prudence sometimes comes a little too late, and parsons do not practise what they preach, shall there be no more advice, and no more sermons? Profit by it or not: at least the present discourse is not very long.

W. M. THACKERAY.

KENSINGTON,

January 25, 1849.

THE
HISTORY OF SAMUEL TITMARSH
AND
THE GREAT HOGGARTY DIAMOND.

CHAPTER I.

Gives an account of our village, and the first glimpse of the diamond.

WHEN I came up to town for my second year, my aunt Hoggarty made me a present of a diamond-pin; that is to say, it was not a diamond-pin then, but a large, old-fashioned locket, of Dublin manufacture in the year 1795, which the late Mr. Hoggarty used to sport at the Lord Lieutenant's balls and elsewhere. He wore it, he said, at the battle of Vinegar Hill, when his club pigtail saved his head from being taken off, — but that is neither here nor there.

In the middle of the brooch was Hoggarty in the scarlet uniform of the corps of Fencibles to which he belonged; around it were thirteen locks of hair, belonging to a baker's dozen of sisters that the old gentleman had; and, as all these little ringlets partook of the family hue of brilliant auburn, Hoggarty's portrait seemed to the fanciful view like a great, fat, red round of beef, surrounded by thirteen carrots. These were dished up on a plate of blue enamel, and it was from the GREAT HOGGARTY DIAMOND (as we called it in the family), that the collection of hairs in question seemed as it were to spring.

My aunt, I need not say, is rich; and I thought I might be her heir as well as another. During my month's holiday, she

was particularly pleased with me; made me drink tea with her often (though there was a certain person in the village with whom on those golden summer evenings I should have liked to have taken a stroll in the hay-fields); promised every time I drank her bohea to do something handsome for me when I went back to town, — nay, three or four times had me to dinner at three, and to whist or cribbage afterwards. I did not care for the cards; for though we always played seven hours on a stretch, and I always lost, my losings were never more than nineteen-pence a-night; but there was some infernal sour black-currant wine, that the old lady always produced at dinner, and with the tray at ten o'clock, and which I dared not refuse, though upon my word and honour it made me very unwell.

Well, I thought after all this obsequiousness on my part, and my aunt's repeated promises, that the old lady would at least make me a present of a score of guineas (of which she had a power in the drawer); and so convinced was I that some such present was intended for me, that a young lady by the name of Miss Mary Smith, with whom I had conversed on the subject, actually netted me a little green silk purse, which she gave me (behind Hicks's hay-rick, as you turn to the right up Churchyard Lane) — which she gave me, I say, wrapped up in a bit of silver paper. There was something in the purse, too, if the truth must be known. First there was a thick curl of the glossiest, blackest hair you ever saw in your life, and next there was threepence; that is to say, the half of a silver sixpence hanging by a little necklace of blue riband. Ah, but I knew where the other half of the sixpence was, and envied that happy bit of silver!

The last day of my holiday I was obliged, of course, to devote to Mrs. Hoggarty. My aunt was excessively gracious; and by way of a treat brought out a couple of bottles of the black-currant, of which she made me drink the greater part. At night when all the ladies assembled at her party had gone off with their pattens and their maids, Mrs. Hoggarty, who had made a signal to me to stay, first blew out three of the

wax candles in the drawing-room, and taking the fourth in her hand, went and unlocked her escritoire.

I can tell you my heart beat, though I pretended to look quite unconcerned.

"Sam, my dear," said she, as she was fumbling with her keys, "take another glass of Rosolio" (that was the name by which she baptised the cursed beverage), "it will do you good." I took it, and you might have seen my hand tremble as the bottle went click, click, against the glass. By the time I had swallowed it, the old lady had finished her operations at the bureau, and was coming towards me, the wax candle bobbing in one hand, and a large parcel in the other.

"Now 's the time," thought I.

"Samuel, my dear nephew," said she, "your first name you received from your sainted uncle, my blessed husband; and of all my nephews and nieces, you are the one whose conduct in life has most pleased me."

When you consider that my aunt herself was one of seven married sisters, that all the Hoggarties were married in Ireland and mothers of numerous children, I must say that the compliment my aunt paid me was a very handsome one.

"Dear aunt," says I, in a slow, agitated voice, "I have often heard you say there were seventy-three of us in all, and believe me I do think your high opinion of me very complimentary indeed; I'm unworthy of it, — indeed I am."

"As for those odious Irish people," says my aunt, rather sharply, "don't speak of them; I hate them, and every one of their mothers" (the fact is, there had been a lawsuit about Hoggarty's property); "but of all my other kindred, you, Samuel, have been the most dutiful and affectionate to me. Your employers in London give the best accounts of your regularity and good conduct. Though you have had eighty pounds a-year (a liberal salary), you have not spent a shilling more than your income, as other young men would; and you have devoted your month's holidays to your old aunt, who, I assure you, is grateful."

"Oh, Ma'am!" said I. It was all that I could utter.

"Samuel," continued she, "I promised you a present, and here it is. I first thought of giving you money; but you are a regular lad, and don't want it. You are above money, dear Samuel. I give you what I value most in life — the p —, the po —, the po-ortrait of my sainted Hoggarty (tears), set in the locket which contains the valuable diamond that you have often heard me speak of. Wear it, dear Sam, for my sake; and think of that angel in heaven, and of your dear aunt Susy."

She put the machine into my hands; it was about the size of the lid of a shaving-box; and I should as soon have thought of wearing it, as of wearing a cocked hat and a pigtail. I was so disgusted and disappointed, that I really could not get out a single word.

When I recovered my presence of mind a little, I took the locket out of the paper (the locket, indeed! it was as big as a barn-door padlock), and slowly put it into my shirt. "Thank you, aunt," said I, with admirable raillery. "I shall always value this present for the sake of you, who gave it me; and it will recall to me my uncle, and my thirteen aunts in Ireland."

"I don't want you to wear it in *that* way!" shrieked Mrs. Hoggarty, "with the hair of those odious carroty women. You must have their hair removed."

"Then the locket will be spoiled, aunt."

"Well, Sir, never mind the locket, have it set afresh."

"Or suppose," said I, "I put aside the setting altogether: it is a little too large for the present fashion; and have the portrait of my uncle framed and placed over my chimney-piece, next to yours. It's a sweet miniature."

"That miniature," said Mrs. Hoggarty, solemnly, "was the great Mulcahy's *chef d'œuvre*," (pronounced *shy dewver*, a favourite word of my aunt's, being, with the words *bong-tong* and *ally mode de Parry*, the extent of her French vocabulary). "You know the dreadful story of that poor, poor artist. When he had finished that wonderful likeness for the late Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty, county Mayo, she

wore it in her bosom at the Lord Lieutenant's ball, where she played a game of picquet with the Commander-in-chief. What could have made her put the hair of her vulgar daughters round Mick's portrait, I can't think; but so it was, as you see it this day. 'Madam,' says the Commander-in-chief, 'if that is not my friend Mick Hoggarty, I'm a Dutchman!' Those were his lordship's very words. Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty took off the brooch and showed it to him.

"Who is the artist?" says my lord. 'It's the most wonderful likeness I ever saw in my life!'

"Mulcahy," says she, 'of Ormond's Quay.'

"Begad, I patronise him!" says my lord; but presently his face darkened, and he gave back the picture with a dissatisfied air. 'There is one great fault in that portrait,' said his lordship, who was a rigid disciplinarian; 'and I wonder that my friend Mick, as a military man, should have overlooked it.'

"What's that?" says Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty.

"Madam, he has been painted WITHOUT HIS SWORD-BELT!" and he took up the cards again in a passion, and finished the game without saying a single word.

"The news was carried to Mr. Mulcahy the next day, and that unfortunate artist *went mad immediately!* He had set his whole reputation upon this miniature, and declared that it should be faultless. Such was the effect of the announcement upon his susceptible heart! When Mrs. Hoggarty died, your uncle took the portrait and always wore it himself. His sisters said it was for the sake of the diamond; whereas, ungrateful things! it was merely on account of their hair, and his love for the fine arts. As for the poor artist, my dear, some people said it was the profuse use of spirit that brought on *delirium tremens*, but I don't believe it. Take another glass of Rosolio."

The telling of this story always put my aunt into great good humour, and she promised at the end of it to pay for the new setting of the diamond, desiring me to take it on my arrival in London to the great jeweller, Mr. Polonius, and

send her the bill. "The fact is," said she, "that the goold in which the thing is set is worth five guineas at the very least, and you can have the diamond reset for two. However, keep the remainder, dear Sam, and buy yourself what you please with it."

With this the old lady bade me adieu. The clock was striking twelve as I walked down the village, for the story of Mulcahy always took an hour in the telling, and I went away not quite so down-hearted as when the present was first made to me. "After all," thought I, "a diamond-pin is a handsome thing, and will give me a *distingué* air, though my clothes be never so shabby," and shabby they were without any doubt. "Well," I said, "three guineas, which I shall have over, will buy me a couple of pairs of what-d'ye-call-'ems," of which, *entre nous*, I was in great want, having just then done growing, whereas my pantaloons were made a good eighteen months before.

Well, I walked down the village, my hands in my breeches-pocket; I had poor Mary's purse there, having removed the little things which she gave me the day before, and placed them — never mind where; but look you, in those days I had a heart, and a warm one too: I had Mary's purse ready for my aunt's donation, which never came, and with my own little stock of money besides, that Mrs. Hoggarty's card-parties had lessened by a good five-and-twenty shillings, I calculated that, after paying my fare, I should get to town with a couple of seven-shilling pieces in my pocket.

I walked down the village at a deuce of a pace; so quick that if the thing had been possible, I should have overtaken ten o'clock that had passed by me two hours ago, when I was listening to Mrs. H.'s long stories over her terrible Rosolio. The truth is, at ten I had an appointment under a certain person's window, who was to have been looking at the moon at that hour, with her pretty quilled night-cap on and her blessed hair in papers.

There was the window shut, and not so much as a candle in it; and though I hemmed, and hawed, and whistled over

the garden-paling, and sang a song of which Somebody was very fond, and even threw a pebble at the window, which hit it exactly at the opening of the lattice, — I woke no one except a great brute of a house-dog, that yelled, and howled, and bounced so at me over the rails, that I thought every moment he would have had my nose between his teeth.

So I was obliged to go off as quickly as might be; and the next morning mamma and my sisters made breakfast for me at four, and at five came the True-Blue light six-inside post-coach to London, and I got up on the roof without having seen Mary Smith.

As we passed the house, it *did* seem as if the window-curtain in her room was drawn aside just a little bit. Certainly the window was open, and it had been shut the night before; but away went the coach; and the village, cottage, and the church-yard, and Hicks's hay-ricks, were soon out of sight.

* * * * *

"My hi, what a pin!" said a stable-boy who was smoking a cigar, to the guard, looking at me and putting his finger to his nose.

The fact is, that I had never undressed since my aunt's party; and being uneasy in mind and having all my clothes to pack up, and thinking of something else, had quite forgotten Mrs. Hoggarty's brooch, which I had stuck into my shirt-frill the night before.

CHAPTER II.

Tells how the diamond is brought up to London, and produces wonderful effects both in the City and at the West End.

THE circumstances recorded in this story took place some score of years ago, when, as the reader may remember, there was a great mania in the city of London for establishing companies of all sorts, by which many people made pretty fortunes.

I was at this period, as the truth must be known, thirteenth clerk of twenty-four young gents who did the immense busi-

ness of the Independent West Diddlesex Fire and Life Insurance Company, at their splendid stone mansion in Cornhill. Mamma had sunk a sum of four hundred pounds in the purchase of an annuity at this office, which paid her no less than six-and-thirty pounds a-year, when no other company in London would give her more than twenty-four. The chairman of the directors was the great Mr. Brough, of the house of Brough and Hoff, Crutchedfriars, Turkey Merchants. It was a new house, but did a tremendous business in the fig and sponge way, and more in the Zante currant line than any other firm in the City.

Brough was a great man among the Dissenting connexion, and you saw his name for hundreds at the head of every charitable society patronised by those good people. He had nine clerks residing at his office in Crutchedfriars; he would not take one without a certificate from the schoolmaster and clergyman of his native place, strongly vouching for his morals and doctrine; and the places were so run after, that he got a premium of four or five hundred pounds with each young gent, whom he made to slave for ten hours a-day, and to whom in compensation he taught all the mysteries of the Turkish business. He was a great man on 'Change, too; and our young chaps used to hear from the stock-brokers' clerks (we commonly dined together at the Cock and Woolpack, a respectable house, where you get a capital cut of meat, bread, vegetables, cheese, half a pint of porter, and a penny to the waiter, for a shilling) — the young stock-brokers used to tell us of immense bargains in Spanish, Greek, and Columbians, that Brough made. Hoff had nothing to do with them, but stopped at home minding exclusively the business of the house. He was a young chap, very quiet and steady, of the Quaker persuasion, and had been taken into partnership by Brough for a matter of thirty thousand pounds, and a very good bargain too. I was told in the strictest confidence that the house one year with another divided a good seven thousand pounds; of which Brough had half, Hoff two-sixths, and the other sixth went to old Tudlow, who had been Mr. Brough's clerk before the new partnership

began. Tudlow always went about very shabby, and we thought him an old miser. One of our gents, Bob Swinney by name, used to say that Tudlow's share was all nonsense, and that Brough had it all; but Bob was always too knowing by half, used to wear a green cut-away coat, and had his free admission to Covent Garden theatre. He was always talking down at the shop, as we called it (it wasn't a shop, but as splendid an office as any in Cornhill) — he was always talking about Vestris and Miss Tree, and singing

“The bramble, the bramble,
The jolly, jolly bramble!”

one of Charles Kemble's famous songs in *Maid Marian*, a play that was all the rage then, taken from a famous story-book by one Peacock, a clerk in the India House, and a precious good place he has too.

When Brough heard how Master Swinney abused him, and had his admission to the theatre, he came one day down to the office where we all were, four-and-twenty of us, and made one of the most beautiful speeches I ever heard in my life. He said that for slander he did not care, contumely was the lot of every public man who had austere principles of his own, and acted by them austere; but what he *did* care for was the character of every single gentleman forming a part of the Independent West Diddlesex Association. The welfare of thousands was in their keeping; millions of money were daily passing through their hands; the city—the country looked upon them for order, honesty, and good example. And if he found amongst those whom he considered as his children — those whom he loved as his own flesh and blood — that that order was departed from, that that regularity was not maintained, that that good example was not kept up (Mr. B. always spoke in this emphatic way) — if he found his children departing from the wholesome rules of morality, religion, and decorum — if he found in high or low — in the head clerk at six hundred a-year down to the porter who cleaned the steps — if he found the slightest taint of dissipation, he would cast the offender from him — yea, though he were his own son, he would cast him from him!

As he spoke this Mr. Brough burst into tears; and we who didn't know what was coming, looked at each other as pale as parsnips; all except Swinney, who was twelfth clerk, and made believe to whistle. When Mr. B. had wiped his eyes and recovered himself, he turned round; and, oh, how my heart thumped as he looked me full in the face! How it was relieved, though, when he shouted out in a thundering voice, —

“MR. ROBERT SWINNEY!”

“Sir to you,” says Swinney, as cool as possible, and some of the chaps began to titter.

“MR. SWINNEY!” roared Brough, in a voice still bigger than before, “when you came into this office — this family, Sir, for such it is, as I am proud to say — you found three-and-twenty as pious and well-regulated young men as ever laboured together — as ever had confided to them the wealth of this mighty capital and famous empire. You found, Sir, sobriety, regularity, and decorum; no profane songs were uttered in this place sacred to — to business; no slanders were whispered against the heads of the establishment — but over them I pass; I can afford, Sir, to pass them by — no worldly conversation or foul jesting disturbed the attention of these gentlemen, or desecrated the peaceful scene of their labours. You found Christians and gentlemen, Sir!”

“I paid for my place like the rest,” said Swinney. “Didn't my governor take sha —”

“Silence, Sir! Your worthy father did take shares in this establishment, which will yield him one day an immense profit. He *did* take shares, Sir, or you never would have been here. I glory in saying that every one of my young friends around me has a father, a brother, a dear relative or friend, who is connected in a similar way with our glorious enterprise; and that not one of them is there but has an interest in procuring, at a liberal commission, other persons to join the ranks of our association. *But*, Sir, I am its chief. You will find, Sir, your appointment signed by me; and in like manner I, John Brough, annul it. Go from us, Sir! — leave us — quit a family that can no longer receive you in its bosom! Mr. Swinney, I have wept

— I have prayed, Sir, before I came to this determination; I have taken counsel, Sir, and am resolved. *Depart from out of us!*”

“Not without three months’ salary, though. Mr. B. that cock won’t fight!”

“They shall be paid to your father, Sir.”

“My father be hanged! I’ll tell you what, Brough, I’m of age; and if you don’t pay me my salary, I’ll arrest you, — by Jingo, I will! I’ll have you in quod, or my name’s not Bob Swinney!”

“Make out a cheque, Mr. Roundhand, for the three months’ salary of this perverted young man.”

“Twenty-one pun five, Roundhand, and nothing for the stamp!” cried out that audacious Swinney. “There it is, Sir, *re-ceipted*. You needn’t cross it to my banker’s. And if any of you gents like a glass of punch this evening at eight o’clock, Bob Swinney’s your man, and nothing to pay. If Mr. Brough *would* do me the honour to come in and take a whack? Come, don’t say no, if you’d rather not!”

We couldn’t stand this impudence, and all burst out laughing like mad.

“Leave the room!” yelled Mr. Brough, whose face had turned quite blue; and so Bob took his white hat off the peg, and strolled away with his “tile,” as he called it, very much on one side. When he was gone, Mr. Brough gave us another lecture, by which we all determined to profit; and going up to Roundhand’s desk put his arm round his neck, and looked over the ledger.

“What money has been paid in to-day, Roundhand?” he said, in a very kind way.

“The widow, Sir, came with her money: nine hundred and four, ten and six — say 904*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* Captain Sparr, Sir, paid his shares up; grumbles, though, and says he’s no more: fifty shares, two instalments — three fifties, Sir.”

“He’s always grumbling!”

“He says he has not a shilling to bless himself with until our dividend-day.”

"Any more?"

Mr. Roundhand went through the book, and made it up nineteen hundred pounds in all. We were doing a famous business now; though when I came into the office we used to sit and laugh, and joke, and read the newspapers all day, bustling into our seats whenever a stray customer came. Brough never cared about our laughing and singing *then*, and was hand and glove with Bob Swinney; but that was in early times, before we were well in harness.

"Nineteen hundred pounds, and a thousand pounds in shares. Bravo, Roundhand — bravo, gentlemen! Remember every share you bring in brings you five per cent down on the nail! Look to your friends — stick to your desks — be regular — I hope none of you forget church. Who takes Mr. Swinney's place?"

"Mr. Samuel Titmarsh, Sir."

"Mr. Titmarsh, I congratulate you. Give me your hand, Sir; you are now twelfth clerk of this Association, and your salary is consequently increased five pounds a-year. How is your worthy mother, Sir—your dear and excellent parent? In good health, I trust? And long—long, I fervently pray, may this office continue to pay her annuity! Remember, if she has more money to lay out, there is higher interest than the last for her, for she is a year older, and five per cent. for you, my boy! Why not you as well as another? Young men will be young men, and a ten-pound note does no harm. Does it, Mr. Abednego?"

"Oh, no!" says Abednego, who was third clerk, and who was the chap that informed against Swinney; and he began to laugh, as indeed we all did whenever Mr. Brough made anything like a joke; not that they *were* jokes; only we used to know it by his face.

"Oh, by the by, Roundhand," says he, "a word with you on business. Mrs. Brough wants to know why the deuce you never come down to Fulham."

"Law, that's very polite!" said Mr. Roundhand, quite pleased.

"Name your day, my boy! Say Saturday, and bring your nightcap with you."

"You're very polite, I'm sure. I should be delighted beyond anything, but —"

"But — no buts, my boy! Hark ye! the Chancellor of the Exchequer does me the honour to dine with us, and I want you to see him; for the truth is, I have bragged about you to his lordship as the best actuary in the three kingdoms."

Roundhand could not refuse such an invitation as *that*, though he had told us how Mrs. R. and he were going to pass Saturday and Sunday at Putney; and we who knew what a life the poor fellow led, were sure that the head clerk would be prettily scolded by his lady when she heard what was going on. She disliked Mrs. Brough very much, that was the fact; because Mrs. B. kept a carriage, and said she didn't know where Pentonville was, and couldn't call on Mrs. Roundhand. Though, to be sure, her coachman might have found out the way.

"And, oh, Roundhand!" continued our governor, "draw a cheque for seven hundred, will you? Come, don't stare, man, I'm not going to run away! That's right, — seven hundred — and ninety, say, while you're about it! Our board meets on Saturday, and never fear I'll account for it to them before I drive you down. We shall take up the Chancellor at Whitehall."

"So saying Mr. Brough folded up the cheque, and shaking hands with Mr. Roundhand very cordially, got into his carriage-and-four (he always drove four horses even in the City, where it's so difficult), which was waiting at the office-door for him.

Bob Swinney used to say that he charged two of the horses to the Company; but there was never believing half of what that Bob said, he used to laugh and joke so. I don't know how it was, but I and a gent by the name of Hoskins (eleventh clerk), who lived together with me in Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, where we occupied a very genteel two-pair, found our flute duet rather tiresome that evening, and as it was a very

fine night, strolled out for a walk West End way. When we arrived opposite Covent Garden Theatre we found ourselves close to the Globe Tavern, and recollected Bob Swinney's hospitable invitation. We never fancied that he had meant the invitation in earnest, but thought we might as well look in; at any rate there could be no harm in doing so.

There, to be sure, in the back drawing-room, where he said he would be, we found Bob at the head of a table and in the midst of a great smoke of cigars, and eighteen of our gents rattling and banging away at the table with the bottoms of their glasses.

What a shout they made as we came in! "Hurray!" says Bob, "here's two more! Two more chairs, Mary, two more tumblers, two more hot waters, and two more goes of gin! Who would have thought of seeing Tit, in the name of goodness?"

"Why," said I, "we only came in by the merest chance."

At this word there was another tremendous roar; and it is a positive fact, that every man of the eighteen had said he came by chance! However, chance gave us a very jovial night; and that hospitable Bob Swinney paid every shilling of the score.

"Gentlemen!" says he, as he paid the bill, "I'll give you the health of John Brough, Esquire, and thanks to him for the present of 21*l.* 5*s.* which he made me this morning. What do I say, 21*l.* 5*s.*? That and a month's salary that I should have had to pay — forfeit — down on the nail, by Jingo! for leaving the shop, as I intended to do, to-morrow morning. I've got a place — a tip-top place, I tell you. Five guineas a-week, six journeys a-year, my own horse and gig, and to travel in the West of England in oil and spermaceti. Here's confusion to gas, and the health of Messrs. Gann and Co. of Thames Street, in the city of London!"

I have been thus particular in my account of the West Diddlesex Assurance Office, and of Mr. Brough, the managing director (though the real names are neither given to the office nor to the chairman, as you may be sure), because the fate of

me and my diamond-pin was mysteriously bound up with both, as I am about to show.

You must know that I was rather respected among our gents at the West Diddlesex, because I came of a better family than most of them; had received a classical education; and especially because I had a rich aunt, Mrs. Hoggarty, about whom, as must be confessed, I used to boast a good deal. There is no harm in being respected in this world, as I have found out: and if you don't brag a little for yourself, depend on it there is no person of your acquaintance who will tell the world of your merits, and take the trouble off your hands.

So that when I came back to the office after my visit at home, and took my seat at the old day-book opposite the dingy window that looks into Birchin Lane, I pretty soon let the fellows know that Mrs. Hoggarty, though she had not given me a large sum of money, as I expected — indeed, I had promised a dozen of them a treat down the river, should the promised riches have come to me — I let them know, I say, that though my aunt had not given me any money, she had given me a splendid diamond, worth at least thirty guineas, and that some day I would sport it at the shop.

"Oh, let's see it!" says Abednego, whose father was a mock-jewel and gold-lace merchant in Hanway Yard; and I promised that he should have a sight of it as soon as it was set. As my pocket money was run out too (by coach hire to and from home, five shillings to our maid at home, ten to my aunt's maid and man, five-and-twenty shillings lost at whist, as I said, and fifteen-and-six paid for a silver scissors for the dear little fingers of Somebody), Roundhand, who was very good-natured, asked me to dine, and advanced me 7*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, a month's salary. It was at Roundhand's house, Myddelton Square, Pentonville, over a fillet of veal and bacon, and a glass of port, that I learned and saw how his wife ill-treated him, as I have told before. Poor fellow! — we under-clerks all thought it was a fine thing to sit at a desk by one's self, and have 50*l.* per month, as Roundhand had; but I've a notion that Hoskins and I, blowing duets on the flute together in our second floor in Sa-

lisbury Square, were a great deal more at ease than our head—and more *in harmony* too, though we made sad work of the music, certainly.

One day Gus Hoskins and I asked leave from Roundhand to be off at three o'clock, as we had *particular business* at the West End. He knew it was about the great Hoggarty diamond, and gave us permission; so off we set. When we reached St. Martin's Lane, Gus got a cigar, to give himself, as it were, a *distingué* air, and puffed at it all the way up the Lane, and through the alleys into Coventry Street, where Mr. Polonius's shop is, as every body knows.

The door was open, and a number of carriages full of ladies were drawing up and setting down. Gus kept his hands in his pockets—trousers were worn very full then, with large tucks, and pigeon-holes for your boots, or Bluchers, to come through (the fashionables wore boots, but we chaps in the City, on 80*l.* a-year, contented ourselves with Bluchers); and as Gus stretched out his pantaloons as wide as he could from his hips, and kept blowing away at his cheroot, and clamping with the iron heels of his boots, and had very large whiskers for so young a man, he really looked quite the genteel thing, and was taken by every body to be a person of consideration.

He would not come into the shop though, but stood staring at the gold pots and kettles in the window outside. I went in; and after a little hemming and hawing, for I had never been at such a fashionable place before, asked one of the gentlemen to let me speak to Mr. Polonius.

"What can I do for you, Sir?" says Mr. Polonius, who was standing close by as it happened, serving three ladies, — a very old one, and two young ones, who were examining pearl necklaces very attentively.

"Sir," said I, producing my jewel out of my coat-pocket, "this jewel has, I believe, been in your house before: it belonged to my aunt, Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty." The old lady standing near looked round as I spoke.

"I sold her a gold neck-chain and repeating-watch in the year 1795," said Mr. Polonius, who made it a point to recol-

lect everything; "and a silver punch-ladle to the captain. How is the major — colonel — general — ay, Sir?"

"The general," said I, "I am sorry to say," though I was quite proud that this man of fashion should address me so, "Mr. Hoggarty is — no more. My aunt has made me a present, however, of this — this trinket, which as you see contains her husband's portrait, that I will thank you, Sir, to preserve for me very carefully; and she wishes that you would set this diamond neatly."

"Neatly and handsomely, of course, Sir."

"Neatly, in the present fashion; and send down the account to her. There is a great deal of gold about the trinket, for which, of course, you will make an allowance."

"To the last fraction of a sixpence," says Mr. Polonius, bowing, and looking at the jewel. "It's a wonderful piece of goods, certainly," said he; "though the diamond's a neat little bit, certainly. Do, my lady, look at it. The thing is of Irish manufacture, bears the stamp of '95, and will recall, perhaps, the times of your ladyship's earliest youth."

"Get ye out, Mr. Polonius!" said the old lady, a little weazen-faced old lady, with her face puckered up in a million of wrinkles: "How *dar* you, Sir, to talk such nonsense to an old woman like me? Wasn't I fifty years old in '95, and a grandmother in '96?" She put out a pair of withered, trembling hands, took up the locket, examined it for a minute, and then burst out laughing, saying, "As I live, it's the great Hoggarty diamond!"

Good Heavens! what was this talisman that had come into my possession?

"Look, girls," continued the old lady, "this is the great jew'l of all Ireland. This red-faced man in the middle is poor Mick Hoggarty, a cousin of mine, who was in love with me in the year '84, when I had just lost your poor dear grandpapa. These thirteen sthreamers of red hair represent his thirteen celebrated sisters, — Biddy, Minny, Thedy, Widdy (short for Williamina), Freddy, Izzy, Tizzy, Mysie, Grizzy, Polly,

Dolly, Nell, and Bell — all mar'ied, all ugly, and all carr'ty hair. And of which are you the son, young man? — though, to do you justice, you 're not like the family."

Two pretty young ladies turned two pretty pairs of black eyes at me, and waited for an answer: which they would have had, only the old lady began rattling on a hundred stories about the thirteen ladies above named, and all their lovers, all their disappointments, and all the duels of Mick Hoggarty. She was a chronicle of fifty years' old scandal. At last she was interrupted by a violent fit of coughing; at the conclusion of which Mr. Polonius very respectfully asked me where he should send the pin, and whether I would like the hair kept?

"No," says I, "never mind the hair."

"And the pin, Sir?"

I had felt ashamed about telling my address: "But, hang it!" thought I, "why *should* I? —

'A king can make a belted knight,
A marquess, duke, and a' that;
An honest man's abune his might —
Gude faith, he canna fa' that.'

Why need I care about telling these ladies where I live?"

"Sir," says I, "have the goodness to send the parcel, when done, to Mr. Titmarsh, No. 3, Bell Lane, Salisbury Square, near St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street. Ring, if you please, the two-pair bell."

"*What*, Sir?" said Mr. Polonius.

"*Hwat!*" shrieked the old lady. "Mr. Hwat? *Mais ma chère c'est impayable*. Come along — here 's the carr'age! Give me your arm, Mr. Hwat, and get inside, and tell me all about your thirteen aunts."

She seized on my elbow and hobbled through the shop as fast as possible; the young ladies following her, laughing.

"Now, jump in, do you hear?" said she, poking her sharp nose out of the window.

"I can't, Ma'am," says I; "I have a friend."

"Pooh, pooh! send um to the juice, and jump in;" and before almost I could say a word, a great powdered fellow

in yellow-plush breeches pushed me up the steps and banged the door to.

I looked just for one minute as the barouche drove away at Hoskins, and never shall forget his figure. There stood Gus, his mouth wide open, his eyes staring, a smoking cheroot in his hand, wondering with all his might at the strange thing that had just happened to me.

"Who is that Titmarsh?" says Gus: "there's a coronet on the carriage, by jingo!"

CHAPTER III.

How the possessor of the diamond is whisked into a magnificent chariot, and has yet further good luck.

I SAT on the back seat of the carriage, near a very nice young lady, about my dear Mary's age — that is to say, seventeen and three quarters; and opposite us sat the old countess and her other granddaughter — handsome too, but ten years older. I recollect I had on that day my blue coat and brass buttons, nankeen trousers, a white sprig waistcoat, and one of Dando's silk hats that had just come in in the year '22, and looked a great deal more glossy than the best beaver.

"And who was that hidjus manster," that was the way her ladyship pronounced, — "that ojus vulgar wretch, with the iron heels to his boots, and the big mouth, and the imitation goold neck-chain, who *steered* at us so as we got into the carr'age?"

How she should have known that Gus's chain was mosaic I can't tell; but so it was, and we had bought it for five-and-twenty and sixpence only the week before at M'Phail's, in St. Paul's Churchyard. But I did not like to hear my friend abused, and so spoke out for him, —

"Ma'am," says I, "that young gentleman's name is Augustus Hoskins. We live together; and a better or more kind-hearted fellow does not exist."

"You are quite right to stand up for your friends, Sir," said the second lady, whose name, it appears, was Lady Jane, but whom the grandmamma called Lady Jene.

"Well, upon me canscience, so he is now, Lady Jene; and I like sper't in a young man. So his name is Hoskins, is it? I know, my dears, all the Hoskinses in England. There are the Lincolnshire Hoskinses, the Shropshire Hoskinses: they say the admiral's daughter, Bell, was in love with a black footman, or boatswain, or some such thing; but the world's so censorious. There's old Doctor Hoskins of Bath, who attended poor dear Drum in the quinsy. And poor, dear, old Fred Hoskins, the gouty general: I remember him as thin as a lath in the year '84, and as active as a harlequin, and in love with me — oh, how he was in love with me!"

"You seem to have had a host of admirers in those days, grandmamma?" said Lady Jane.

"Hundreds, my dear, — hundreds of thousands. I was the toast of Bath, and a great beauty, too; would you ever have thought it now, upon your conscience and without flattery, Mr.-a-What-d'ye-call-'em?"

"Indeed, Ma'am, I never should," I answered, for the old lady was as ugly as possible; and at my saying this the two young ladies began screaming with laughter, and I saw the two great-whiskered footmen grinning over the back of the carriage.

"Upon my word, you're mighty candid, Mr. What's-your-name — mighty candid, indeed; but I like candour in young people. But a beauty I was. Just ask your friend's uncle the general. He's one of the Lincolnshire Hoskinses — I knew he was by the strong family likeness. Is he the eldest son? It's a pretty property, though sadly encumbered; for old Sir George was the divvle of a man — a friend of Hanbury Williams, and Lyttleton, and those horrid, monstrous, ojoues people! How much will he have now, mister, when the admiral dies?"

"Why, Ma'am, I can't say; but the admiral is not my friend's father."

"Not his father? — but he is, I tell you, and I'm never wrong. Who is his father, then?"

"Ma'am, Gus's father's a leather-seller in Skinner Street, Snow Hill, — a very respectable house, Ma'am. But Gus is only third son, and so can't expect a great share in the property."

The two young ladies smiled at this — the old lady said, "Hwat?"

"I like you, Sir," Lady Jane said, "for not being ashamed of your friends, whatever their rank of life may be. Shall we have the pleasure of setting you down any where, Mr. Titmarsh?"

"Noways particular, my lady," says I. "We have a holiday at our office to-day — at least, Roundhand gave me and Gus leave; and I shall be very happy, indeed, to take a drive in the Park, if it's no offence."

"I'm sure it will give us — infinite pleasure," said Lady Jane, though rather in a grave way.

"Oh, that it will!" says Lady Fanny, clapping her hands: "won't it, grandmamma? And after we have been in the Park, we can walk in Kensington Gardens, if Mr. Titmarsh will be good enough to accompany us."

"Indeed, Fanny, we will do no such thing," says Lady Jane.

"Indeed, but we will though!" shrieked out Lady Drum. "An't I dying to know every thing about his uncle and thirteen aunts? and you're all chattering so, you young women, that not a blessed syllable will you allow me or my young friend here to speak."

Lady Jane gave a shrug with her shoulders, and did not say a single word more. Lady Fanny, who was as gay as a young kitten (if I may be allowed so to speak of the aristocracy), laughed, and blushed, and giggled, and seemed quite to enjoy her sister's ill-humour. And the countess began at once, and entered into the history of the thirteen Miss Hoggarties, which was not near finished when we entered the Park.

When there, you can't think what hundreds of gents on horseback came to the carriage and talked to the ladies. They had their joke for Lady Drum, who seemed to be a character in her way; their bow for Lady Jane; and, the young ones especially, their compliment for Lady Fanny.

Though she bowed and blushed, as a young lady should, Lady Fanny seemed to be thinking of something else, for she kept her head out of the carriage, looking eagerly among the horsemen, as if she expected to see somebody. Aha! my Lady Fanny, I knew what it meant when a young pretty lady like you was absent, and on the look-out, and only half answered the questions put to her. Let alone Sam Titmarsh — he knows what *Somebody* means as well as another, I warrant. As I saw these manœuvres going on, I could not help just giving a wink to Lady Jane, as much as to say I knew what was what. "I guess the young lady is looking for Somebody," says I. It was then *her* turn to look queer, I assure you, and she blushed as red as scarlet; but, after a minute, the good-natured little thing looked at her sister, and both the young ladies put their handkerchiefs up to their faces, and began laughing — laughing as if I had said the funniest thing in the world.

"Il est charmant, votre Monsieur," said Lady Jane to her grandmamma. And on which I bowed, and said, "Madame, vous me faites beaucoup d'honneur;" for I know the French language, and was pleased to find that these good ladies had taken a liking to me. "I'm a poor humble lad, Ma'am, not used to London society, and do really feel it quite kind of you to take me by the hand so, and give me a drive in your fine carriage."

At this minute a gentleman on a black horse, with a pale face, and a tuft to his chin, came riding up to the carriage; and I knew by a little start that Lady Fanny gave, and by her instantly looking round the other way, that *Somebody* was come at last.

"Lady Drum," said he, "your most devoted servant! I have been just riding with a gentleman who almost shot him-

self for love of the beautiful Countess of Drum in the year — never mind the year.”

“Was it Killblazes?” said the lady: “he’s a dear old man, and I’m quite ready to go off with him this minute. Or was it that delight of an old bishop? He’s got a lock of my hair now — I gave it him when he was papa’s chaplain; and let me tell you it would be a hard matter to find another now in the same place.”

“Law, my lady!” says I, “you don’t say so?”

“But, indeed, I do, my good Sir,” says she; “for, between ourselves, my head’s as bare as a cannon-ball — ask Fanny if it isn’t. Such a fright as the poor thing got when she was a babby, and came upon me suddenly in my dressing-room without my wig!”

“I hope Lady Fanny has recovered from the shock,” said “Somebody,” looking first at her, and then at me as if he had a mind to swallow me. And, would you believe it? all that Lady Fanny could say was, “Pretty well, I thank you, my lord;” and she said this with as much fluttering and blushing as we used to say our Virgil at school — when we hadn’t learned it.

My lord still kept on looking very fiercely at me, muttered something about having hoped to find a seat in Lady Drum’s carriage, as he was tired of riding; on which Lady Fanny muttered something, too, about “a friend of grandmamma’s.”

“You should say a friend of yours, Fanny,” says Lady Jane: “I am sure we never should have come to the Park if Fanny had not insisted upon bringing Mr. Titmarsh hither. Let me introduce the Earl of Tiptoff to Mr. Titmarsh.” But, instead of taking off his hat, as I did mine, his lordship growled out that he hoped for another opportunity, and galloped off again on his black horse. Why the deuce I should have offended him, I never could understand.

But it seemed as if I was destined to offend all the men that day; for who should presently come up but the Right Hon. Edmund Preston, one of his majesty’s under secretaries of

state (as I knew very well by the almanack in our office), and the husband of Lady Jane.

The Right Hon. Edmund was riding a grey cob, and was a fat, pale-faced man, who looked as if he never went into the open air. "Who the devil's that?" said he to his wife, looking surlily both at me and her.

"Oh, it's a friend of grandmamma's and Jane's," said Lady Fanny at once, looking, like a sly rogue as she was, quite archly at her sister, who, in her turn, appeared quite frightened, and looked imploringly at her sister, and never dared to breathe a syllable. "Yes, indeed," continued Lady Fanny, "Mr. Titmarsh is a cousin of grandmamma's, by the mother's side, by the Hoggarty side. Didn't you know the Hoggarties when you were in Ireland, Edmund, with Lord Bagwig? Let me introduce you to grandmamma's cousin, Mr. Titmarsh; Mr. Titmarsh, my brother, Mr. Edmund Preston."

There was Lady Jane all the time treading upon her sister's foot as hard as possible, and the little wicked thing would take no notice, and I, who had never heard of the cousinship, feeling as confounded as could be. But I did not know the Countess of Drum near so well as that sly minx her granddaughter did; for the old lady, who had just before called poor Gus Hoskins her cousin, had, it appeared, the mania of fancying all the world related to her, and said, —

"Yes, we're cousins, and not very far removed. Mick Hoggarty's grandmother was Millicent Brady, and she and my aunt Towzer were related, as all the world knows; for Decimus Brady, of Ballybrady, married an own cousin of aunt Towzer's mother, Bell Swift — that was no relation of the Dean's, my love, who came but of a so-so family — and isn't *that* clear?"

"Oh, perfectly, grandmamma," said lady Jane, laughing, while the right honourable gent still rode by us, looking sour and surly.

"And sure you knew the Hoggarties, Edmund? — the thirteen red-haired girls — the nine graces, and four over, as

poor Clanboy used to call them. Poor Clan! — a cousin of yours and mine, Mr. Titmarsh, and sadly in love with me he was too. Not remember them *all* now, Edmund? — not remember? — not remember Beddy and Minny, and Thedy and Winny, and Mysie and Grizzie, and Polly and Dolly, and the rest?"

"D— the Miss Hoggarties, Ma'am," said the right honourable gent; and he said it with such energy, that his grey horse gave a sudden lash out that well-nigh sent him over his head. Lady Jane screamed; Lady Fanny laughed; old Lady Drum looked as if she did not care twopence, and said, "Serve you right for swearing, — you ojou's man, you!"

"Hadn't you better come into the carriage, Edmund — Mr. Preston?" cried out the lady, anxiously.

"Oh, I'm sure I'll slip out, Ma'am," says I.

"Pooh, pooh, don't stir," said Lady Drum, "it's my carriage; and if Mr. Preston chooses to swear at a lady of my years in that ojou's vulgar way — in that ojou's vulgar way, I repeat — I don't see why my friends should be inconvenienced for him. Let him sit on the dickey if he likes, or come in and ride bodkin." It was quite clear that my Lady Drum hated her grandson-in-law heartily; and I've remarked somehow in families that this kind of hatred is by no means uncommon.

Mr. Preston, one of his majesty's secretaries of state, was, to tell the truth, in a great fright upon his horse, and was glad to get away from the kicking, plunging brute. His pale face looked still paler than before, and his hands and legs trembled as he dismounted from the cob and gave the reins to his servant. I disliked the looks of the chap — of the master, I mean — at the first moment he came up, when he spoke rudely to that nice gentle wife of his; and I thought he was a cowardly fellow, as the adventure of the cob showed him to be. Heaven bless you! a baby could have ridden it; and here was the man with his soul in his mouth at the very first kick.

"Oh, quick! *do* come in, Edmund," said Lady Fanny, laughing! and the carriage-steps being let down, and giving

me a great scowl as he came in, he was going to place himself in Lady Fanny's corner (I warrant you I wouldn't budge from mine), when the little rogue cried out, "Oh, no! by no means, Mr. Preston. Shut the door, Thomas. And, oh! what fun it will be to show all the world a secretary of state riding bodkin!"

And pretty glum the secretary of state looked, I assure you!

"Take my place, Edmund, and don't mind Fanny's folly," said Lady Jane, timidly.

"Oh, no! — pray, Madam, don't stir! I 'm comfortable, very comfortable; and so I hope is this Mr. — this gentleman."

"Perfectly, I assure you," says I. "I was going to offer to ride your horse home for you, as you seemed to be rather frightened at it; but the fact was, I was so comfortable here that really I *couldn't* move.

Such a grin as old Lady Drum gave when I said that! — how her little eyes twinkled, and her little sly mouth puckered up! I couldn't help speaking, for, look you, my blood was up.

"We shall always be happy of your company, cousin Titmarsh," says she; and handed me a gold snuff-box, out of which I took a pinch, and sneezed with the air of a lord.

"As you have invited this gentleman into your carriage, Lady Jane Preston, hadn't you better invite him home to dinner?" says Mr. Preston, quite blue with rage.

"I invited him into *my* carr'age;" says the old lady; "and as we are going to dine at your house, and you press it, I 'm sure I shall be very happy to see him there."

"I 'm very sorry I 'm engaged," said I.

"Oh, indeed, what a pity!" says right honourable Ned, still glowering at his wife. "What a pity that this gentleman — I forget his name — that your friend, Lady Jane, is engaged! I am sure you would have had such gratification in meeting your relation in Whitehall."

Lady Drum was over fond of finding out relations, to be sure, but this speech of right honourable Ned's was rather too much. "Now, Sam," says I, "be a man and show your spirit!" So I spoke up at once, and said, "Why, ladies, as the right honourable gent is so *very* pressing, I'll give up my engagement, and shall have sincere pleasure in cutting mutton with him. What's your hour, Sir?"

He didn't condescend to answer, and for me I did not care, for, you see, I did not intend to dine with the man, but only to give him a lesson of manners. For though I am but a poor fellow, and hear people cry out how vulgar it is to eat peas with a knife, or ask three times for cheese, and such-like points of ceremony, there's something, I think, much more vulgar than all this, and that is insolence to one's inferiors. I hate the chap that uses it, as I scorn him of humble rank that affects to be of the fashion; and so I determined to let Mr. Preston know a piece of my mind.

When the carriage drove up to his house, I handed out the ladies as politely as possible, and walked into the hall, and then taking hold of Mr. Preston's button at the door, I said, before the ladies and the two big servants — upon my word I did — "Sir," says I, "this kind old lady asked me into her carriage, and I rode in it to please her, not myself. When you came up and asked who the devil I was, I thought you might have put the question in a more polite manner, but it wasn't my business to speak. When, by way of a joke, you invited me to dinner, I thought I would answer in a joke too, and here I am. But don't be frightened; I'm not a-going to dine with you: only if you play the same joke upon other parties — on some of the chaps in our office, for example — I recommend you to have a care, or they will *take you at your word*."

"Is that all, Sir?" says Mr. Preston, still in a rage: "if you have done, will you leave this house, or shall my servants turn you out? Turn out this fellow! do you hear me?" and he broke away from me, and flung into his study in a rage.

"He's an ojou, horrid monsther of a man, that husband of yours!" said Lady Drum, seizing hold of her elder grand-

daughter's arm, "and I hate him; and so come away, for the dinner 'll be getting cold:" and she was for hurrying away Lady Jane without more ado. But that kind lady, coming forward, looking very very pale and trembling, said, "Mr. Titmarsh, I do hope you 'll not be angry — that is, that you 'll forget what has happened, for, believe me, it has given me very great —"

Very great what I never could say, for here the poor thing's eyes filled with tears; and Lady Drum, crying out, "Tut, tut! none of this nonsense," pulled her away by the sleeve, and went up-stairs. But little Lady Fanny walked boldly up to me, and held me out her little hand, and gave mine such a squeeze, and said, "Good-by, my dear Mr. Titmarsh," so very kindly, that I'm blest if I did not blush up to the ears, and all the blood in my body began to tingle.

So, when she was gone, I clapped my hat on my head, and walked out of the hall-door, feeling as proud as a peacock and as brave as a lion; and all I wished for was that one of those saucy, grinning footmen should say or do something to me that was the least uncivil, so that I might have the pleasure of knocking him down, with my best compliments to his master. But neither of them did me any such favour; and I went away, and dined at home off boiled mutton and turnips with Gus Hoskins quite peacefully.

I did not think it was proper to tell Gus (who, between ourselves, is rather curious, and inclined to tittle-tattle) all the particulars of the family quarrel of which I had been the cause and witness, and so just said that the old lady — ("They were the Drum arms," says Gus; "for I went and looked them out that minute in the *Peerage*;") that the old lady turned out to be a cousin of mine, and that she had taken me to drive in the Park. Next day, we went to the office as usual, when, you may be sure that Hoskins told everything of what had happened, and a great deal more; and somehow, though I did not pretend to care sixpence about the matter, I must confess that I *was* rather pleased that the gents in our office should hear of a part of my adventure.

But fancy my surprise, on coming home in the evening, to find Mrs. Stokes, the landlady; Miss Selina Stokes, her daughter; and Master Bob Stokes, her son (an idle young vagabond that was always playing marbles on St. Bride's steps, and in Salisbury Square), — when I found them all bustling and tumbling up the steps before me to our rooms, on the second floor, and there, on the table, between our two flutes, on one side, my album, Gus's *Don Juan* and *Peerage* on the other, I saw as follows: —

1. A basket of great red peaches, looking like the cheeks of my dear Mary Smith.

2. A ditto of large, fat, luscious, heavy-looking grapes.

3. An enormous piece of raw mutton, as I thought it was; but Mrs. Stokes said it was the primest haunch of venison that ever she saw.

And three cards, viz.,

DOWAGER COUNTESS OF DRUM.

LADY FANNY RAKES.

MR. PRESTON.

LADY JANE PRESTON.

EARL OF TIPTOFF.

"Such a carriage!" says Mrs. Stokes (for that was the way the poor thing spoke) "such a carriage — all over coronites! sich liveries — two great footmen, with red whiskers and yellow-plush small-clothes; and inside, a very old lady in a white poke bonnet, and a young one with a great Leghorn hat and blue ribands, and a great, tall, pale gentleman, with a tuft on his chin.

"Pray, Madam, does Mr. Titmarsh live here?' says the young lady, with her clear voice.

"Yes, my lady,' says I; 'but he's at the office — the West Diddlesex Fire and Life Office, Cornhill.'

"Charles, get out the things,' says the gentleman, quite solemn.

“‘Yes, my lord,’ says Charles; and brings me out the haunch in a newspaper, and on the chany dish as you see it, and the two baskets of fruit besides.

“‘Have the kindness, Madam,’ said my lord, ‘to take these things to Mr. Titmarsh’s rooms, with our, with Lady Jane Preston’s compliments, and request his acceptance of them;’ and then he pulled out the cards on your table, and this letter, sealed with his lordship’s own crown.”

And herewith Mrs. Stokes gave me a letter, which my wife keeps to this day by the way, and which runs thus: —

“The Earl of Tiptoff has been commissioned by Lady Jane Preston to express her sincere regret and disappointment that she was not able yesterday to enjoy the pleasure of Mr. Titmarsh’s company. Lady Jane is about to leave town immediately; she will therefore be unable to receive her friends in Whitehall Place this season. But Lord Tiptoff trusts that Mr. Titmarsh will have the kindness to accept some of the produce of her ladyship’s garden and park; with which, perhaps, he will entertain some of those friends in whose favour he knows so well how to speak.”

Along with this was a little note, containing the words “Lady Drum at home. Friday evening, June 17.” And all this came to me because my aunt Hoggarty had given me a diamond-pin!

I did not send back the venison, as why should I? Gus was for sending it at once to Brough, our director; and the grapes and peaches to my aunt in Somersetshire.

“But no,” says I, “we’ll ask Bob Swinney and half-a-dozen more of our gents; and we’ll have a merry night of it on Saturday.” And a merry night we had too; and as we had no wine in the cupboard, we had plenty of ale, and gin-punch afterwards. And Gus sat at the foot of the table, and I at the head; and we sang songs, both comic and sentimental, and drank toasts; and I made a speech that there is no possibility of mentioning here, because, *entre nous*, I had quite forgotten in the morning every thing that had taken place after a certain period on the night before.

CHAPTER IV.

How the happy diamond-wearer dines at Pentonville.

I DID not go to the office till half an hour after opening time on Monday. If the truth must be told, I was not sorry to let Hoskins have the start of me, and tell the chaps what had taken place, — for we all have our little vanities, and I liked to be thought well off by my companions.

When I came in, I saw my business had been done, by the way in which the chaps looked at me, especially Abednego, who offered me a pinch out of his gold snuff-box the very first thing. Roundhand shook me, too, warmly by the hand, when he came round to look over my day-book, said I wrote a capital hand (and indeed I believe I do, without any sort of flattery), and invited me for dinner next Sunday, in Myddelton Square. “You won’t have,” said he, “quite such a grand turn-out as with *your friends at the west end*,” he said this with a particular accent; “but Amelia and I are always happy to see a friend in our plain way, — pale sherry, old port, and cut-and-come again. Hey?”

I said I would come, and bring Hoskins too.

He answered, that I was very polite, and that he should be very happy to see Hoskins; and we went accordingly, at the appointed day and hour; but though Gus was eleventh clerk and I twelfth, I remarked that at dinner I was helped first and best. I had twice as many forced-meat balls as Hoskins in my mock-turtle, and pretty nearly all the oysters out of the sauce-boat. Once, Roundhand was going to help Gus before me; when his wife who was seated at the head of the table, looking very big and fierce in red crape and a turban, shouted out, “ANTONY!” and poor R. dropped the plate, and blushed as red as any thing. How Mrs. R. did talk to me about the west end, to be sure! She had a *Peerage*, as you may be certain, and knew everything about the Drum family in a manner that quite astonished me. She asked me how much Lord Drum had a year; whether I

thought he had twenty, thirty, forty, or a hundred and fifty thousand a-year; whether I was invited to Drum Castle; what the young ladies wore, and if they had those odious gigot sleeves which were just coming in then? and here Mrs. R. looked at a pair of large mottled arms that she was very proud of.

"I say, Sam, my boy!" cried, in the midst of our talk, Mr. Roundhand, who had been passing the port-wine round pretty freely, "I hope you looked to the main chance, and put in a few shares of the West Diddlesex, — hey?"

"Mr. Roundhand, have you put up the decanters downstairs?" cries the lady, quite angry, and wishing to stop the conversation.

"No, Milly, I 've *emptied* 'em," says R.

"Don't Milly me, Sir! and have the goodness to go down and tell Lancy, my maid (a look at me), to make the tea in the study. We have a gentleman here who is not *used* to Pentonville ways (another look); but he won't mind the ways of *friends*." And here Mrs. Roundhand heaved her very large chest, and gave me a third look, that was so severe, that, I declare to goodness, it made me look quite foolish. As to Gus, she never so much as spoke to him all the evening; but he consoled himself with a great lot of muffins, and sat most of the evening (it was a cruel hot summer) whistling and talking with Roundhand on the verandah. I think I should like to have been with them, — for it was very close in the room with that great, big Mrs. Roundhand squeezing close up to one on the sofa.

"Do you recollect what a jolly night we had here last summer?" I heard Hoskins say, who was leaning over the balcony, and ogling the girls coming home from church; "You and me with our coats off, plenty of cold rum-and-water, Mrs. Roundhand at Margate, and a whole box of Manillas?"

"Hush!" said Roundhand, quite eagerly; "Milly will hear."

But Milly didn't hear; for she was occupied in telling me an immense long story about her waltzing with the Count de Schloppenzollern, at the city ball to the allied sovereigns; and how the count had great, large, white moustaches; and how odd she thought it to go whirling round the room with a great man's arm round your waist. "Mr. Roundhand has never allowed it since our marriage — never; but in the year 'fourteen it was considered a proper compliment, you know, to pay the sovereigns. So twenty-nine young ladies, of the best families in the city of London, I assure you, Mr. Titmarsh — there was the Lord Mayor's own daughters; Alderman Dobbin's gals; Sir Charles Hopper's three, who have the great house in Baker Street; and your humble servant, who was rather slimmer in those days — twenty-nine of us had a dancing-master on purpose, and practised waltzing in a room over the Egyptian Hall, at the Mansion House. He was a splendid man, that Count Schloppenzollern!"

"I am sure, Ma'am," says I, "he had a splendid partner!" and blushed up to my eyes when I said it.

"Get away, you naughty creature!" says Mrs. Roundhand, giving me a great slap; "you're all the same, you men in the west end — all deceivers. The count was just like you. Heigho! Before you marry, it's all honey and compliments; when you win us, it's all coldness and indifference. Look at Roundhand, the great baby, trying to beat down a butterfly with his yellow bandanna! Can a man like *that* comprehend me? can he fill the void in my heart?" (She pronounced it without the *h*; but, that there should be no mistake, laid her hand upon the place meant.) "Ah, no! Will *you* be so neglectful when *you* marry, Mr. Titmarsh?"

As she spoke, the bells were just tolling the people out of church, and I fell a-thinking of my dear, dear Mary Smith, in the country, walking home to her grandmother's, in her modest grey cloak, as the bells were chiming, and the air full of the sweet smell of the hay, and the river shining in

the sun, all crimson, purple, gold, and silver. There was my dear Mary a hundred and twenty miles off, in Somersetshire, walking home from church along with Dr. Snorter's family, with which she came and went; and I was listening to the talk of this great, leering, vulgar woman.

I could not help feeling for a certain half of a sixpence that you have heard me speak of; and putting my hand mechanically upon my chest, I tore my fingers with the point of my new DIAMOND-PIN. Mr. Polonius had sent it home the night before, and I sported it for the first time at Roundhand's to dinner.

"It 's a beautiful diamond," said Mrs. Roundhand; "I have been looking at it all dinner-time. How rich you must be to wear such splendid things; and how can you remain in a vulgar office in the city, — you who have such great acquaintances at the west end?"

The woman had somehow put me in such a passion that I bounced off the sofa, and made for the balcony without answering a word, — ay, and half broke my head against the sash, too, as I went out to the gents in the open air. "Gus," says I, "I feel very unwell: I wish you 'd come home with me." And Gus did not desire anything better; for he had ogled the last girl out of the last church, and the night was beginning to fall.

"What! already?" said Mrs. Roundhand; "there is a lobster coming up, — a trifling refreshment; not what he 's accustomed to, but —"

I am sorry to say I nearly said, "D— the lobster!" as Roundhand went and whispered to her that I was ill.

"Ay," said Gus, looking very knowing. "Recollect, Mrs. R., that he was *at the west end* on Thursday asked to dine, Ma'am, with the tip-top nobs. Chaps don't dine at the west end for nothing, do they, R.? If you play at *bowls*, you know —"

"You must look out for *rubbers*," said Roundhand, as quick as thought.

"Not in my house of a Sunday," said Mrs. R., looking very fierce and angry. "Not a card shall be touched *here*. Are we in a Protestant land, Sir? in a Christian country?"

"My dear, you don't understand. We were not talking of rubbers of whist."

"There shall be *no* game at all in the house of a Sabbath eve," said Mrs. Roundhand; and out she flounced from the room, without ever so much as wishing us good night.

"Do stay," said the husband, looking very much frightened, — "do stay. She won't come back while you're here; and I do wish you'd stay so."

But we wouldn't; and when we reached Salisbury Square, I gave Gus a lecture about spending his Sundays idly; and read out one of Blair's sermons before we went to bed. As I turned over in bed, I could not help thinking about the luck the pin had brought me; and it was not over yet, as you will see in the next chapter.

CHAPTER V.

How the diamond introduces him to a still more fashionable place.

To tell the truth, though, about the pin, although I mentioned it almost the last thing in the previous chapter, I assure you it was by no means the last thing in my thoughts. It had had come home from Mr. Polonius's, as I said, on Saturday night; and Gus and I happened to be out enjoying ourselves, half-price, at Sadler's Wells; and perhaps we took a little refreshment on our way back; but that has nothing to do with my story.

On the table, however, was the little box from the jeweller's; and when I took it out, — *my*, how the diamond did twinkle and glitter by the light of our one candle!

"I'm sure it would light up the room of itself," says Gus. "I've read they do in — in history."

It was in the history of Cogia Hassan Alhabbal, in the *Arabian Nights*, as I knew very well. But we put the candle out, nevertheless, to try.

“Well, I declare to goodness it does illuminate the whole place!” says Gus; but the fact was, that there was a gas-lamp opposite our window, and I believe that was the reason why we could see pretty well. At least in my bed-room, to which I was obliged to go without a candle, and of which the window looked out on a dead wall, I could not see a wink, in spite of the Hoggarty diamond, and was obliged to grope about in the dark for a pincushion which Somebody gave me (I don’t mind owning it was Mary Smith), and in which I stuck it for the night. But somehow, I did not sleep much for thinking of it, and woke very early in the morning; and, if the truth must be told, stuck it in my night-gown, like a fool, and admired myself very much in the glass.

Gus admired it as much as I did; for since my return, and especially since my venison dinner and drive with Lady Drum, he thought I was the finest fellow in the world, and boasted about his “west-end friend” every where.

As we were going to dine at Roundhand’s, and I had no black satin stock to set it off, I was obliged to place it in the frill of my best shirt, which tore the muslin sadly by the way. However, the diamond had its effect on my entertainers, as we have seen, rather too much perhaps on one of them; and next day I wore it down at the office, as Gus would make me do, though it did not look near so well in the second day’s shirt as on the first day, when the linen was quite clear and bright with Somersetshire washing.

The chaps at the West Diddlesex all admired it hugely, except that snarling Scotchman M’Whirter, fourth clerk, — out of envy because I did not think much of a great yellow stone, named a carum-gorum, or some such thing, which he had in a snuff-mull, as he called it, — all except M’Whirter, I say, were delighted with it; and Abednego himself, who ought to know, as his father was in the line, told me the jewel was worth at least ten poundsh, and that his governor would give me as much for it.

“That’s a proof,” says Roundhand, “that Tit’s diamond is worth at least thirty;” and we all laughed, and agreed it was.

Now, I must confess that all these praises, and the respect that was paid me, turned my head a little; and as all the chaps said I *must* have a black satin stock to set the stone off, I was fool enough to buy a stock that cost me five-and-twenty shillings, at Ludlam's, in Piccadilly; for Gus said I must go to the best place, to be sure, and have none of our cheap and common east-end stuff. I might have had one for sixteen and six in Cheapside, every whit as good; but when a young lad becomes vain, and wants to be fashionable, you see he can't help being extravagant.

Our director, Mr. Brough, did not fail to hear of the haunch of venison business, and my relationship with Lady Drum and the Right Hon. Edmund Preston; only Abednego, who told him, said I was her ladyship's first cousin; and this made Brough think more of me, and no worse than before.

Mr. B. was, as everybody knows, member of parliament for Rottenburgh; and being considered one of the richest men in the city of London, used to receive all the great people of the land at his villa at Fulham; and we often read in the papers of the rare doings going on there.

Well, the pin certainly worked wonders; for, not content merely with making me a present of a ride in a countess's carriage, of a haunch of venison, and two baskets of fruit, and the dinner at Roundhand's above described, my diamond had other honours in store for me, and procured me the honour of an invitation to the house of our director, Mr. Brough.

Once a year, in June, that honourable gent gave a grand ball at his house at Fulham; and by the accounts of the entertainment brought back by one or two of our chaps who had been invited, it was one of the most magnificent things to be seen about London. You saw members of parliament there as thick as peas in July, lords and ladies without end. There was every thing and every body of the tip-top sort; and I have heard that Mr. Gunter, of Berkeley Square, supplied the ices, supper, and footmen, — though of the latter Brough kept a plenty, but not enough to serve the host of people who came to him. The party, it must be remembered, was *Mrs.* Brough's

party, not the gentleman's, — he being in the Dissenting way, would scarcely sanction any entertainments of the kind; but he told his City friends that his lady governed him in every thing; and it was generally observed, that most of them would allow their daughters to go to the ball if asked, on account of the immense number of the nobility which our director assembled together: Mrs. Roundhand I know, for one, would have given one of her ears to go; but, as I have said before, nothing would induce Brough to ask her.

Roundhand himself, and Gutch, nineteenth clerk, son of the brother of an East Indian director, were the only two of our gents invited, as we knew very well, for they had received their invitations many weeks before, and bragged about them not a little. But two days before the ball, and after my diamond-pin had had its due effect upon the gents at the office, Abednego, who had been in the director's room, came to my desk with a great smirk, and said, "Tit, Mr. B. says, that he expects you will come down with Roundhand to the ball on Thursday." I thought Moses was joking, — at any rate, that Mr. B.'s message was a queer one; for people don't usually send invitations in that abrupt, peremptory sort of a way; but, sure enough, he presently came down himself, and confirmed it, saying, as he was going out of the office, "Mr. Titmarsh, you will come down on Thursday to Mrs. Brough's party, where you will see some relations of yours."

"West end again!" says that Gus Hoskins; and accordingly down I went, taking a place in a cab which Roundhand hired for himself, Gutch, and me, and for which he very generously paid eight shillings.

There is no use to describe the grand gala, nor the number of lamps in the lodge and in the garden, nor the crowd of carriages that came in the gates, nor the troops of curious people outside; nor the ices, fiddlers, wreaths of flowers, and cold supper within. The whole description was beautifully given in a fashionable paper, by a reporter who observed the same from the Yellow Lion over the way, and told it in his journal in the most accurate manner; getting an account of the

dresses of the great people from their footmen and coachmen, when they came to the ale-house for their porter. As for the names of the guests, they, you may be sure, found their way to the same newspaper; and a great laugh was had at my expense, because among the titles of the great people mentioned, my name appeared in the list of the "Honourables." Next day, Brough advertised "a hundred and fifty guineas reward for an emerald necklace lost at the party of John Brough, Esq., at Fulham." Though some of our people said that no such thing was lost at all, and that Brough only wanted to advertise the magnificence of his society; but this doubt was raised by persons not invited, and envious, no doubt.

Well, I wore my diamond, as you may imagine, and rigged myself in my best clothes, viz. my blue coat and brass buttons before-mentioned, nankeen trousers and silk stockings, a white waistcoat, and a pair of white gloves bought for the occasion. But my coat was of country make, very high in the waist and short in the sleeves, and I suppose must look rather odd to some of the great people assembled, for they stared at me a great deal, and a whole crowd formed to see me dance, which I did to the best of my power, performing all the steps accurately, and with great agility; as I had been taught by our dancing-master in the country.

And with whom do you think I had the honour to dance? With no less a person than Lady Jane Preston, who it appears had not gone out of town, and who shook me most kindly by the hand when she saw me, and asked me to dance with her. We had my Lord Tiptoff and Lady Fanny Rakes for our *vis-à-vis*.

You should have seen how the people crowded to look at us, and admired my dancing too, for I cut the very best of capers, quite different to the rest of the gents (my lord among the number), who walked through the quadrille, as if they thought it a trouble, and stared at my activity with all their might. But when I have a dance, I like to enjoy myself; and Mary Smith often said I was the very best partner at our assemblies. While we were dancing, I told Lady Jane how

Roundhand, Gutch, and I, had come down three in a cab, besides the driver; and my account of our adventures made her ladyship laugh, I warrant you. Lucky it was for me that I didn't go back in the same vehicle; for the driver went and intoxicated himself at the Yellow Lion, threw out Gutch and our head clerk as he was driving them back, and actually fought Gutch afterwards, and blacked his eye, because he said that Gutch's red velvet waistcoat frightened the horse.

Lady Jane, however, spared me such an uncomfortable ride home; for she said she had a fourth place in her carriage, and asked me if I would accept it; and positively, at two o'clock in the morning, there was I, after setting the ladies and my lord down, driven to Salisbury Square in a great thundering carriage, with flaming lamps and two tall footmen, who nearly knocked the door and the whole little street down with the noise they made at the rapper. You should have seen Gus's head peeping out of window in his white nightcap! He kept me up the whole night telling him about the ball, and the great people I had seen there; and next day he told at the office my stories, with his own usual embroideries upon them.

"Mr. Titmarsh," said Lady Fanny, laughing to me, "who is that great, fat, curious man, the master of the house? Do you know he asked me if you were not related to us? and I said, 'O yes, you were.'"

"Fanny!" says Lady Jane.

"Well," answered the other. "Did not grandmamma say Mr. Titmarsh was her cousin?"

"But you know that grandmamma's memory is not very good."

"Indeed, you're wrong, Lady Jane," says my lord; "I think it's prodigious."

"Yes, but not very — not very accurate."

"No, my lady," says I; "for her ladyship, the Countess of Drum, said, if you remember, that my friend Gus Hoskins —"

"Whose cause you supported so bravely," cries Lady Fanny.

"— That my friend Gus is her ladyship's cousin too, which cannot be, for I know all his family; they live in Skinner Street and St. Mary Axe, and are not — not quite so *respectable* as *my* relatives."

At this they all began to laugh; and my lord said, rather haughtily,

"Depend upon it, Mr. Titmarsh, that Lady Drum is no more your cousin than she is the cousin of your friend, Mr. Hoskinson."

"Hoskins, my lord, and so I told Gus; but you see he is very fond of me, and *will* have it that I am related to Lady D.: and, say what I will to the contrary, tells the story every where. Though to be sure," added I, with a laugh, "it has gained me no small good in my time." So I described to the party our dinner at Mrs. Roundhand's, which all came from my diamond-pin, and my reputation as a connexion of the aristocracy. Then I thanked Lady Jane handsomely for her magnificent present of fruit and venison, and told her, that it had entertained a great number of kind friends of mine, who had drank her ladyship's health with the greatest gratitude.

"A *haunch of venison!*" cried Lady Jane, quite astonished; "indeed, Mr. Titmarsh, I am quite at a loss to understand you."

As we passed a gas-lamp, I saw Lady Fanny laughing, as usual, and turning her great, arch, sparkling black eyes at Lord Tiptoff.

"Why, Lady Jane," said he, "if the truth must out, the great haunch of venison trick was one of this young lady's performing. You must know, that I had received the above-named haunch from Lord Guttlebury's park; and, knowing that Preston is not averse to Guttlebury venison, was telling Lady Drum (in whose carriage I had a seat that day, as Mr. Titmarsh was not in the way), that I intended the haunch for your husband's table. Whereupon my Lady Fanny, clapping together her little hands, declared and vowed that the venison

should *not* go to Preston, but should be sent to a gentleman about whose adventures on the day previous we had just been talking, — to Mr. Titmarsh, in fact, whom Preston, as Fanny vowed, had used most cruelly, and to whom, she said, a reparation was due. So my Lady Fanny insists upon our driving straight to my rooms in the Albany (you know I am only to stay in my bachelor's quarters a month longer) —”

“Nonsense!” says Lady Fanny.

“— Insists upon driving straight to my chambers in the Albany, extracting thence the above-named haunch.”

“Grandmamma was very sorry to part with it,” cries Lady Fanny.

“— And then she orders us to proceed to Mr. Titmarsh's house in the city, where the venison was left, in company with a couple of baskets of fruit bought at Grange's by Lady Fanny herself.”

“And what was more,” said Lady Fanny, “I made grandmamma go into Fr — into Lord Tiptoff's rooms, and dictated out of my own mouth the letter which she wrote, and pinned up the haunch of venison that his hideous old housekeeper brought us — I'm quite jealous of her — I pinned up the haunch of venison in a copy of the *John Bull* newspaper.”

It had one of the Ramsbottom letters in it, I remember, which Gus and I read on Sunday at breakfast, and we nearly killed ourselves with laughing. The ladies laughed too when I told them this; and good-natured Lady Jane said she would forgive her sister, and hoped I would too; which I promised to do as often as her ladyship chose to repeat the offence.

I never had any more venison from the family; but I'll tell you *what* I had. About a month after, came a card of “Lord and Lady Tiptoff,” and a great piece of plum-cake, of which I am sorry to say Gus ate a great deal too much.

CHAPTER VI.

Of the West Diddlesex Association, and of the effect the diamond had there.

WELL, the magic of the pin was not over yet. Very soon after Mrs. Brough's grand party, our director called me up to his room at the West Diddlesex, and after examining my accounts, and speaking awhile about business, said, "That's a very fine diamond-pin, Master Titmarsh, (he spoke in a grave, patronising way,) and I called you on purpose to speak to you upon the subject. I do not object to seeing the young men of this establishment well and handsomely dressed; but I know that their salaries cannot afford ornaments like those, and I grieve to see you with a thing of such value. You have paid for it, Sir — I trust you have paid for it; for, of all things, my dear — dear young friend, beware of debt."

I could not conceive why Brough was reading me this lecture about debt, and my having bought the diamond-pin, as I knew that he had been asking about it already, and how I came by it — Abednego told me so. "Why, Sir," says I, "Mr. Abednego told me that he had told you that I had told him —"

"Oh, ay — by the by, now I recollect, Mr. Titmarsh — I *do* recollect — yes; though I suppose, Sir, you will imagine that I have other more important things to remember."

"Oh, Sir, in course," says I.

"That one of the clerks *did* say something about a pin — that one of the other gentlemen had it. And so your pin was given you, was it?"

"It was given me, Sir, by my aunt, Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty," said I, raising my voice, for I was a little proud of Castle Hoggarty.

"She must be very rich to make such presents, Titmarsh?"

"Why, thank you, Sir," says I, "she *is* pretty well off. Four hundred a-year jointure; a farm at Slopperton, Sir; three houses at Squashtail; and three thousand two hundred

loose cash at the banker's, as I happen to know, Sir, — *that's all.*"

I did happen to know this, you see, because, while I was down in Somersetshire, Mr. Mac Manus, my aunt's agent in Ireland, wrote to say that a mortgage she had on Lord Bralaghan's property had just been paid off, and that the money was lodged at Coutts's. Ireland was in a very disturbed state in those days; and my aunt wisely determined not to invest her money in that country any more, but to look out for some good security in England. However, as she had always received six per cent. in Ireland, she would not hear of a smaller interest; and had warned me, as I was a commercial man, on coming to town, to look out for some means by which she could invest her money at that rate at least.

"And how do you come to know Mrs. Hoggarty's property so accurately?" said Mr. Brough; upon which I told him.

"Good Heavens, Sir! and do you mean that you, a clerk in the West Diddlesex Insurance Office, applied to by a respectable lady as to the manner in which she should invest property, never spoke to her about the Company which you have the honour to serve? Do you mean, Sir, that you, knowing there was a bonus of five per cent. for yourself upon shares taken, did not press Mrs. Hoggarty to join us?"

"Sir," says I, "I'm an honest man, and would not take a bonus from my own relation."

"Honest I know you are, my boy — give me your hand! So am I honest — so is every man in this Company honest; but we must be prudent as well. We have five millions of capital on our books, as you see — five *boná fide* millions of *boná fide* sovereigns paid up, Sir, — there is no dishonesty there. But why should we not have twenty millions — a hundred millions? Why should not this be the greatest commercial association in the world? — as it shall be, Sir — it shall, as sure as my name is John Brough, if Heaven bless my honest endeavours to establish it! But do you suppose that it can be so unless every man among us use his utmost exertions to forward the success of the enterprise? Never, Sir, — never; and, for me, I say

so every where. I glory in what I do. There is not a house in which I enter but I leave a prospectus of the West Diddlesex. There is not a single tradesman I employ but has shares in it to some amount. My servants, Sir — my very servants and grooms are bound up with it. And the first question I ask of any one who applies to me for a place is, Are you insured or a shareholder in the West Diddlesex? the second, Have you a good character? And if the first question is answered in the negative, I say to the party coming to me, Then *be* a shareholder before you ask for a place in my household. Did you not see me — me, John Brough, whose name is good for millions — step out of my coach-and-four in to this office, with four pounds nineteen, which I paid in to Mr. Roundhand as the price of half a share for the porter at my lodge-gate? Did you remark that I deducted a shilling from the five pound?"

"Yes, Sir; it was the day you drew out eight hundred and seventy-three, ten and six — Thursday week," says I.

"And why did I deduct that shilling, Sir? Because it was *my commission* — John Brough's commission of five per cent.; honestly earned by him, and openly taken. Was there any disguise about it? No. Did I do it for the love of a shilling? No," says Brough, laying his hand on his heart, "I did it from *principle* — from that motive which guides every one of my actions, as I can look up to Heaven and say. I wish all my young men to see my example, and follow it — I wish — I pray that they may. Think of that example, Sir. That porter of mine has a sick wife and nine young children; he is himself a sick man, and his tenure of life is feeble; he has earned money, Sir, in my service — sixty pounds and more — it is all his children have to look to — all; but for that, in the event of his death, they would be houseless beggars in the street. And what have I done for that family, Sir? I have put that money out of the reach of Robert Gates, and placed it so that it shall be a blessing to his family at his death. Every farthing is invested in shares in this office; and Robert Gates, my lodge-porter, is a holder of three shares in the West Diddlesex

Association, and, in that capacity, your master and mine. Do you think I want to *cheat* Gates?"

"Oh, Sir!" says I.

"To cheat that poor helpless man, and those tender, innocent children! — you can't think so, Sir; I should be a disgrace to human nature if I did. But what boots all my energy and perseverance? What though I place my friends' money, my family's money, my own money — my hopes, wishes, desires, ambitions — all upon this enterprise? You young men will not do so. You, whom I treat with love and confidence as my children, make no return to *me*. When I toil, you remain still; when I struggle, you look on. Say the word at once, — you *doubt* me! O Heavens, that *this* should be the reward of all my care and love for you!"

Here Mr. Brough was so affected that he actually burst into tears, and I confess I saw in its true light the negligence of which I had been guilty.

"Sir," says I, "I am very — very sorry: it was a matter of delicacy, rather than otherwise, which induced me not to speak to my aunt about the West Diddlesex."

"Delicacy, my dear, dear boy — as if there can be any delicacy about making your aunt's fortune! Say indifference to me, say ingratitude, say folly, — but don't say delicacy — no, no, not delicacy. Be honest, my boy, and call things by their right names — always do."

"It *was* folly and ingratitude, Mr. Brough," says I; "I see it all now; and I'll write to my aunt this very post."

"You had better do no such thing," says Brough, bitterly; "the stocks are at ninety, and Mrs. Hoggarty can get three per cent. for her money."

"I *will* write, Sir, — upon my word and honour, I will write."

"Well, as your honour is past, you must, I suppose; for never break your word — no, not in a trifle, Titmarsh. Send me up the letter when you have done, and I'll frank it — upon my word and honour, I will," says Mr. Brough, laughing, and holding out his hand to me.

I took it, and he pressed mine very kindly, — “You may as well sit down here,” says he as he kept hold of it; “there is plenty of paper.”

And so I sat down and mended a beautiful pen and began, and wrote, “Independent West Diddlesex Association, June 1822,” and “My dear Aunt,” in the best manner possible. Then I paused a little, thinking what I should next say; for I’ve always found that difficulty about letters. The date and my dear So-and-so one writes off immediately — it is the next part which is hard; and I put my pen into my mouth, flung myself back in my chair, and began to think about it.

“Bah!” said Brough, “are you going to be about that letter all day, my good fellow? Listen to me, and I’ll dictate to you in a moment.” So he began: —

“My dear Aunt, — Since my return from Somersetshire, I am very happy indeed to tell you, that I have so pleased the managing director of our Association and the Board, that they have been good enough to appoint me third clerk —”

“Sir!” says I.

“Write what I say. Mr. Roundhand, as has been agreed by the Board yesterday, quits the clerk’s desk, and takes the title of secretary and actuary. Mr. Highmore takes his place; Mr. Abednego follows him; and I place you as third clerk — as

“third clerk (write), with a salary of a hundred and fifty pounds per annum. This news will, I know, gratify my dear mother and you, who have been a second mother to me all my life.

“When I was last at home, I remember you consulted me as to the best mode of laying out a sum of money which was lying useless in your banker’s hands. I have since lost no opportunity of gaining what information I could; and situated here as I am, in the very midst of affairs, I believe, although very young, I am as good a person to apply to as many others of greater age and standing.

“I frequently thought of mentioning to you our Association, but feelings of delicacy prevented me from doing so. I did not wish that any one should suppose that a shadow of self-interest could move me in any way.

"But I believe, without any sort of doubt, that the West Diddlesex Association offers the best security that you can expect for your capital, and, at the same time, the highest interest you can anywhere procure.

"The situation of the Company, as I have it from *the very best authority*, (underline that), is as follows:—

"The subscribed and *bonâ fide* capital is FIVE MILLIONS STERLING.

"The body of directors you know. Suffice it to say that the managing director is John Brough, Esq., of the firm of Brough and Hoff, a member of parliament, and a man as well known as Mr. Rothschild in the city of London. His private fortune I know for a fact amounts to half a million, and the last dividends paid to the shareholders of the I. W. D. Association amounted to 6½ per cent. per annum."

[That I know was the dividend declared by us.]

"Although the shares in the market are at a very great premium, it is the privilege of the four first clerks to dispose of a certain number, 5000/. each at par; and if you, my dearest aunt, would wish for 2500/. worth, I hope you will allow me to oblige you by offering you so much of my new privileges.

"Let me hear from you immediately upon the subject, as I have already an offer for the whole amount of my shares at market price."

"But I haven't, Sir," says I.

"You have, Sir. I will take the shares, but I want *you*. I want as many respectable persons in the Company as I can bring. I want you because I like you, and I don't mind telling you that I have views of my own as well, for I am an honest man and say openly what I mean, and I'll tell you *why* I want you. I can't, by the regulations of the Company, have more than a certain number of votes, but if your aunt takes shares, I expect — I don't mind owning it — that she will vote with me. *Now* do you understand me? My object is to be all in all with the Company; and if I be, I will make it the most glorious enterprise that ever was conducted in the city of London."

So I signed the letter and left it with Mr. B. to frank.

The next day I went and took my place at the third clerk's desk, being led to it by Mr. B., who made a speech to the gents, much to the annoyance of the other chaps, who grum-

bled about their services; though, as for the matter of that, our services were very much alike; the Company was only three years old, and the oldest clerk in it had not six months more standing in it than I. "Look out," said that envious Mac Whirter to me. "Have you got money, or have any of your relations money? or are any of them going to put it into the concern?"

I did not think fit to answer him, but took a pinch out of his mull, and was always kind to him; and he, to say the truth, was always most civil to me. As for Gus Hoskins, he began to think I was a superior being; and I must say that the rest of the chaps behaved very kindly in the matter, and said that if one man were to be put over their heads before another, they would have pitched upon me, for I had never harmed any of them, and done little kindnesses to several.

"I know," says Abednego, "how you got the place. It was I who got it you. I told Brough you were a cousin of Preston's, the Lord of the Treasury, had venison from him, and all that; and depend upon it he expects that you will be able to do him some good in that quarter."

I think there was some likelihood in what Abednego said, because our governor, as we called him, frequently spoke to me about my cousin; told me to push the concern in the west end of the town, get as many noblemen as we could to insure with us, and so on. It was in vain I said that I could do nothing with Mr. Preston. "Bah! bah!" says Mr. Brough, "don't tell *me*. People don't send haunches of venison to you for nothing;" and I'm convinced he thought I was a very cautious, prudent fellow for not bragging about my great family, and keeping my connexion with them a secret. To be sure he might have learned the truth from Gus, who lived with me, but Gus would insist that I was hand in glove with all the nobility, and boasted about me ten times as much as I did myself.

The chaps used to call me the "West Ender."

See, thought I, what I have gained by aunt Hoggarty giving me a diamond-pin! what a lucky thing it is that she did

not give me the money as I hoped she would! Had I not had the pin — had I even taken it to any other person but Mr. Polonius, Lady Drum would never have noticed me; had Lady Drum never noticed me, Mr. Brough never would, and I never should have been third clerk of the West Diddlesex.

I took heart at all this, and wrote off on the very evening of my appointment to my dearest Mary Smith, giving her warning that a "certain event," for which one of us was longing very earnestly, might come off sooner than we had expected. And why not? Miss S.'s own fortune was 70*l.* a year, mine was 150*l.*, and when we had 300*l.* we always vowed we would marry. Ah! thought I, if I could but go to Somersetshire now, I might boldly walk up to old Smith's door (he was her grandfather and a half-pay lieutenant of the navy), I might knock at the knocker and see my beloved Mary in the parlour, and not be obliged to sneak behind hay-ricks on the look-out for her, or pelt stones at midnight at her window.

My aunt, in a few days, wrote a pretty gracious reply to my letter. She had not determined, she said, as to the manner in which she should employ her three thousand pounds, but should take my offer into consideration, begging me to keep my shares open for a little while, until her mind was made up.

What, then, does Mr. Brough do? I learned afterwards, in the year 1830, when he and the West Diddlesex Association had disappeared altogether, how he had proceeded.

"Who are the attorneys at Slopperton?" says he to me in a careless way.

"Mr. Ruck, Sir," says I, "is the Tory solicitor, and Messrs. Hodge and Smithers the Liberals." I knew them very well, for the fact is, before Mary Smith came to live in our parts, I was rather partial to Miss Hodge, and her great gold-coloured ringlets; but Mary came and soon put *her* nose out of joint, as the saying is.

"And you are of what politics?"

"Why, Sir, we are Liberals." I was rather ashamed of this, for Mr. Brough was an out-and-out Tory; but Hodge and Smithers is a most respectable firm. I brought up a packet

from them to Hickson, Dixon, Paxon and Jackson, *our* solicitors, who are their London correspondents.

Mr. Brough only said, "Oh, indeed!" and did not talk any further on the subject, but began admiring my diamond-pin very much.

"Titmarsh, my dear boy," says he, "I have a young lady at Fulham who is worth seeing, I assure you, and who has heard so much about you from her father (for I like you, my boy, I don't care to own it), that she is rather anxious to see you, too. Suppose you come down to us for a week, Abednego will do your work?"

"Law, Sir! you are very kind," says I.

"Well, you shall come down, and I hope you will like my claret. But hark ye! I don't think, my dear fellow, you are quite smart enough — quite well enough dressed. Do you understand me?"

"I've my blue coat and brass buttons at home, Sir."

"What! that thing with the waist between your shoulders that you wore at Mrs. Brough's party?" (It *was* rather high-waisted, being made in the country two years before.) "No — no, that will never do. Get some new clothes, Sir, — two new suits of clothes."

"Sir!" says I, "I'm already, if the truth must be told, very short of money for this quarter, and can't afford myself a new suit for a long time to come."

"Pooh, pooh! don't let that annoy you. Here's a ten-pound note. But no, on second thoughts, you may as well go to my tailor's. I'll drive you down there, and never mind the bill, my good lad!" And drive me down he actually did, in his grand coach and four, to Mr. Von Stiltz, in Clifford Street, who took my measure, and sent me home two of the finest coats ever seen, a dress coat and a frock, a velvet waistcoat, a silk ditto, and three pairs of pantaloons, of the most beautiful make. Brough told me to get some boots and pumps, and silk stockings for evenings; so that when the time came for me to go down to Fulham, I appeared as handsome as any young

nobleman, and Gus said that "I looked, by jingo, like a regular tip-top swell."

In the mean time, the following letter had been sent down to Hodge and Smith: —

*"Ram Alley, Cornhill, London,
July 1822.*

"DEAR SIRS,

* * * * *

This part being on private affairs
relative to the cases of

Dixon v. Haggerstony,
Snodgras v. Rubbidge and another,
I am not permitted
to extract.

* * * * *

"Likewise we beg to hand you a few more prospectuses of the Independent West Diddlesex Fire and Life Assurance Company, of which we have the honour to be the solicitors in London. We wrote to you last year, requesting you to accept the Slopperton and Somerset agency for the same, and have been expecting for some time back that either shares or assurances should be effected by you.

"The capital of the Company, as you know, is five millions sterling (say 5,000,000*l.*), and we are in a situation to offer more than the usual commission to our agents of the legal profession. We shall be happy to give a premium of 6 per cent. for shares to the amount of 1000*l.*, 6½ per cent. above a thousand, to be paid immediately upon the taking of the shares.

"I am, dear Sirs, for self and partners,

"Yours most faithfully,

"SAMUEL JACKSON."

This letter, as I have said, came into my hands some time afterwards. I knew nothing of it in the year 1822, when, in my new suit of clothes, I went down to pass a week at the Rookery, Fulham, residence of John Brough, Esq., M. P.

CHAPTER VII.

How Samuel Titmarsh reached the highest point of prosperity.

IF I had the pen of a George Robins, I might describe the Rookery properly: suffice it, however, to say it is a very handsome country place; with handsome lawns sloping down to the

river, handsome shrubberies and conservatories, fine stables, out-houses, kitchen-gardens, and everything belonging to a first-rate *rus in urbe*, as the great auctioneer called it when he hammered it down some years after.

I arrived on a Saturday at half an hour before dinner; a grave gentleman out of livery showed me to my room; a man in a chocolate and gold lace, with Brough's crest on the buttons, brought me a silver shaving-pot of hot water on a silver tray; and a grand dinner was ready at six, at which I had the honour of appearing in Von Stiltz's dress-coat, and my new silk stockings and pumps.

Brough took me by the hand as I came in, and presented me to his lady, a stout, fair-haired woman, in light blue satin; then to his daughter, a tall, thin, dark-eyed girl, with beetle-brows, looking very ill-natured, and about eighteen.

"Belinda, my love," said her papa, "this young gentleman is one of my clerks, who was at our ball."

"Oh, indeed!" says Belinda, tossing up her head.

"But not a common clerk, Miss Belinda, — so, if you please, we will have none of your aristocratic airs with him. He is a nephew of the Countess of Drum; and I hope he will soon be very high in our establishment and in the city of London."

At the name of Countess (I had a dozen times rectified the error about our relationship), Miss Belinda made a low courtesy, and stared at me very hard, and said she would try and make the Rookery pleasant to any friend of papa's. "We have not much *monde* to-day," continued Miss Brough, "and are only in *petit comité*; but I hope before you leave us, you will see some *société* that will make your *séjour* agreeable."

I saw at once that she was a fashionable girl, from her using the French language in this way.

"Isn't she a fine girl?" said Brough, whispering to me, and evidently as proud of her as a man could be. "Isn't she a fine girl — eh, you dog? Do you see breeding like that in Somersetshire?"

"No, Sir, upon my word!" answered I, rather sily, for I was thinking all the while how "Somebody" was a thousand times more beautiful, simple, and lady-like.

"And what has my dearest love been doing all day?" said her papa.

"Oh, pa! I have *pincéd* the harp a little to Captain Fizgig's flute. Didn't I, Captain Fizgig?"

Captain the Hon. Francis Fizgig said, "Yes, Brough, your fair daughter *pincéd* the harp, and *touchéd* the piano, and *égratigné*d the guitar, and *écorché*d a song or two; and we had the pleasure of a *promenade à l'eau*, — of a walk upon the water."

"Law, captain!" cries Mrs. Brough, "walk on the water?"

"Hush, mamma, you don't understand French!" says Miss Belinda, with a sneer.

"It's a sad disadvantage, Madam," says Fizgig, gravely; "and I recommend you and Brough here, who are coming out in the great world, to have some lessons; or at least get up a couple of dozen phrases, and introduce them into your conversation here and there. I suppose, Sir, you speak it commonly at the office, or what you call it?" and Mr. Fizgig put his glass into his eye, and looked at me.

"We speak English, Sir," says I, "knowing it better than French."

"Everybody has not had your opportunities, Miss Brough," continued the gentleman. "Everybody has not *voyagé* like *nous autres*, hey? *Mais que voulez-vous*, my good Sir, you must stick to your cursed ledgers and things; what's the French for ledger, Miss Belinda?"

"How can you ask! *Je n'en sçais rien*, I'm sure."

"You should learn, Miss Brough," said her father. "The daughter of a British merchant need not be ashamed of the means by which her father gets his bread. I'm not ashamed — I'm not proud. Those who know John Brough, know that ten years ago he was a poor clerk like my friend Titmarsh here, and is now worth half a million. Is there any man in the House better listened to than John Brough? Is there any duke in the

land that can give a better dinner than John Brough; or a larger fortune to his daughter than John Brough? Why, Sir, the humble person now speaking to you could buy out many a German duke! But I'm not proud — no, no, not proud. There's my daughter — look at her — when I die, she will be mistress of my fortune; but am I proud? No! Let him who can win her marry her, that's what I say. Be it you, Mr. Fizgig, son of a peer of the realm; or you, Bill Tidd. Be it a duke or a shoeblack, what do I care, hey? — what do I care?"

"O-o-oh!" sighed the gent who went by the name of Bill Tidd, a very pale young man, with a black riband round his neck instead of a handkerchief, and his collars turned down like Lord Byron. He was leaning against the mantelpiece, and with a pair of great green eyes, ogling Miss Brough with all his might.

"Oh, John — my dear John!" cried Mrs. Brough, seizing her husband's hand and kissing it, "you are an angel, that you are!"

"Isabella, don't flatter me, I'm a *man*, — a plain, downright citizen of London, without a particle of pride, except in you and my daughter here — my two Bells, as I call them! This is the way that we live, Titmarsh, my boy: ours is a happy, humble, Christian home, and that's all. Isabella, leave go my hand!"

"Mamma, you mustn't do so before company, it's odious!" shrieked Miss B.; and mamma quietly let the hand fall, and heaved from her ample bosom a great large sigh. I felt a liking for that simple woman, and a respect for Brough too. He *couldn't* be a bad man, whose wife loved him so.

Dinner was soon announced, and I had the honour of leading in Miss B., who looked back rather angrily, I thought, at Captain Fizgig, because that gentleman had offered his arm to Mrs. Brough. He sat on the right of Mrs. Brough, and Miss flounced down on the seat next to him, leaving me and Mr. Tidd to take our places at the opposite side of the table.

At dinner there was turbot and soup first, and boiled turkey afterwards, of course. How is it that at all the great dinners

they have this perpetual boiled turkey? It was real turtle-soup, the first time I had ever tasted it; and I remarked how Mrs. B., who insisted on helping it, gave all the green lumps of fat to her husband, and put several slices of the breast of the bird under the body, until it came to his turn to be helped.

"I'm a plain man," says John, "and eat a plain dinner. I hate your kickshaws, though I keep a French cook for those who are not of my way of thinking. I'm no egotist, look you; I've no prejudices; and Miss there has her bechamels and fallals according to her taste. Captain, try the *volly vong*."

We had plenty of champagne and old madeira with dinner, and great silver tankards of porter, which those might take who chose. Brough made especially a boast of drinking beer; and when the ladies retired, said "Gentlemen, Tiggins will give you an unlimited supply of wine, there's no stinting here;" and then laid himself down in his easy chair and fell asleep.

"He always does so," whispered Mr. Tidd to me.

"Get some of that yellow-sealed wine, Tiggins," says the captain. "That other claret we had yesterday is loaded, and disagrees with me infernally!"

I must say I liked the yellow seal much better than aunt Hoggarty's Rosolio.

I soon found out what Mr. Tidd was, and what he was longing for.

"Isn't she a glorious creature?" says he to me.

"Who, Sir?" says I.

"Miss Belinda, to be sure!" cried Tidd. "Did mortal ever look upon eyes like hers, or view a more sylph-like figure?"

"She might have a little more flesh, Mr. Tidd," says the captain, "and a little less eyebrow. They look vicious, those scowling eyebrows, in a girl. *Qu'en dites vous*, Mr. Titmarsh? as Miss Brough would say."

"I think it remarkably good claret, Sir," says I.

"Egad, you're the right sort of fellow!" says the captain. "*Volto sciolto*, eh? You respect our sleeping host yonder?"

"That I do, Sir, as the first man in the city of London, and my managing director."

"And so do I," says Tidd; "and this day fortnight, when I'm of age, I'll prove my confidence too."

"As how?" says I.

"Why, Sir, you must know that I come into — ahem — a considerable property, Sir, on the 14th of July, which my father made — in business."

"Say at once he was a tailor, Tidd."

"He *was* a tailor, Sir, — but what of that? I've had a university education, and have the feelings of a gentleman; as much — ay, perhaps, and more, than some members of an effete aristocracy."

"Tidd, don't be severe!" says the captain, drinking a tenth glass.

"Well, Mr. Titmarsh, when of age I come into a considerable property; and Mr. Brough has been so good as to say, he can get me twelve hundred a-year for my twenty thousand pounds, and I have promised to invest them."

"In the West Diddlesex, Sir?" says I — "in our office?"

"No, in another company, of which Mr. Brough is director, and quite as good a thing. Mr. Brough is a very old friend of my family, Sir, and he has taken a great liking to me; and he says that with my talents I ought to get into parliament; and then — and then! after I have laid out my patrimony, I may look to *matrimony*, you see!"

"Oh, you designing dog!" said the captain. "When I used to lick you at school, who ever would have thought that I was thrashing a sucking statesman?"

"Talk away, boys!" said Brough, waking out of his sleep; "I only sleep with half an eye, and hear you all. Yes, you shall get into parliament, Tidd, my man, or my name's not Brough! You shall have six per cent. for your money, or never believe me! But as for my daughter — ask *her*, and not me. You, or the captain, or Titmarsh, may have her, if you can get her. All I ask in a son-in-law is, that

he should be, as every one of you is, an honourable and high-minded man!"

Tidd at this looked very knowing; and, as our host sank off to sleep again, pointed archly at his eyebrows, and wagged his head at the captain.

"Bah!" says the captain. "I say what I think; and you may tell Miss Brough, if you like;" and so presently this conversation ended, and we were summoned in to coffee; after which the captain sang songs with Miss Brough; and Tidd looked at her and said nothing, and I looked at prints, and Mrs. Brough sat knitting stockings for the poor. The captain was sneering openly at Miss Brough, and her affected ways and talk; but in spite of his bullying, contemptuous way, I thought she seemed to have a great regard for him, and to bear his scorn very meekly.

At twelve Captain Fizgig went off to his barracks at Knightsbridge, and Tidd and I to our rooms. Next day being Sunday, a great bell woke us at eight, and at nine we all assembled in the breakfast-room, where Mr. Brough read prayers, a chapter, and made an exhortation afterwards, to us and all the members of the household, except the French cook, Monsieur Nongtongpaw, whom I could see from my chair walking about in the shrubberies in his white night-cap, smoking a cigar.

Every morning, on week days, punctually at eight, Mr. Brough went through the same ceremony, and had his family to prayers; but though this man was a hypocrite, as I found afterwards, I'm not going to laugh at the family prayers, or say he was a hypocrite *because* he had them: there are many bad and good men who don't go through the ceremony at all; but I am sure the good men would be the better for it, and am not called upon to settle the question with respect to the bad ones; and therefore I have passed over a great deal of the religious part of Mr. Brough's behaviour: suffice it, that religion was always on his lips; that he went to church thrice every Sunday, when he had not a party; and if he did not talk religion with us when we

were alone, had a great deal to say upon the subject upon occasions, as I found one day when we had a Quaker and Dissenter party to dine, and when his talk was as grave as that of any minister present. Tidd was not there that day, — for nothing could make him forsake his Byron riband, or refrain from wearing his collars turned down; so he sent Tidd with the buggy to Astley's. "And hark ye, Titmarsh, my boy," said he, "leave your diamond-pin up-stairs; our friends to-day don't like such gewgaws; and though, for my part, I am no enemy to harmless ornaments, yet I would not shock the feeling of those who have sterner opinions. You will see that my wife and Miss Brough consult my wishes in this respect." And so they did, — for they both came down to dinner in black gowns and tippets; whereas, Miss B. had commonly her dress half off her shoulders.

The captain rode over several times to see us; and Miss Brough seemed always delighted to see *him*. One day I met him as I was walking out alone by the river, and we had a long talk together.

"Mr. Titmarsh," says he, "from what little I have seen of you, you seem to be an honest straight-minded young fellow; and I want some information that you can give. Tell me, in the first place, if you will — and upon my honour it shall go no farther — about this Insurance Company of yours? You are in the city, and see how affairs are going on. Is your concern a stable one?"

"Sir," said I, "frankly, then, and upon my honour too, I believe it is. It has been set up only four years, it is true; but Mr. Brough had a great name when it was established, and a vast connexion. Every clerk in the office has, to be sure, in a manner, paid for his place, either by taking shares himself, or by his relations taking them. I got mine because my mother, who is very poor, devoted a small sum of money that came to us to the purchase of an annuity for herself, and a provision for me. The matter was debated by the family and our attorneys, Messrs. Hodge and Smithers, who are very well known in our parts of the

country; and it was agreed on all hands that my mother could not do better with her money for all of us than invest it in this way. Brough alone is worth half a million of money, and his name is a host in itself. Nay, more; I wrote the other day to an aunt of mine, who has a considerable sum of money in loose cash, and who had consulted me as to the disposal of it, to invest it in our office. Can I give you any better proof of my opinion of its solvency?"

"Did Brough persuade you in any way?"

"Yes, he certainly spoke to me; but he very honestly told me his motives, and tells them to us all as honestly. He says, 'Gentlemen, it is my object to increase the connexion of the office as much as possible. I want to crush all the other offices in London. Our terms are lower than any office, and we can bear to have them lower, and a great business will come to us that way. But we must work ourselves as well. Every single shareholder and officer of the establishment must exert himself, and bring us customers, — no matter for how little they are engaged — engage them, that is the great point.' And accordingly our director makes all his friends and servants shareholders; his very lodge-porter yonder is a shareholder; and he thus endeavours to fasten upon all whom he comes near. I, for instance, have just been appointed over the heads of our gents, to a much better place than I held. I am asked down here, and entertained royally; and why? Because my aunt has three thousand pounds which Mr. Brough wants her to invest with us."

"That looks awkward, Mr. Titmarsh."

"Not a whit, Sir; he makes no disguise of the matter. When the question is settled one way or the other, I don't believe Mr. Brough will take any further notice of me. But he wants me now. This place happened to fall in just at the very moment when he had need of me; and he hopes to gain over my family through me. He told me as much as we drove down. 'You are a man of the world, Titmarsh,' said he; 'you know that I don't give you this place because

you are an honest fellow, and write a good hand. If I had had a lesser bribe to offer you at the moment, I should only have given you that; but I had no choice, and gave you what was in my power.'"

"That's fair enough; but what can make Brough so eager for such a small sum as three thousand pounds?"

"If it had been ten, Sir, he would have been not a bit more eager. You don't know the city of London, and the passion which our great men in the share-market have for increasing their connexion. Mr. Brough, Sir, would canvass and wheedle a chimney-sweep in the way of business. See here is poor Tidd and his twenty thousand pounds. Our director has taken possession of him just in the same way. He wants all the capital he can lay his hands on."

"Yes, and suppose he runs off with the capital?"

"Mr. Brough, of the firm of Brough and Hoff, Sir? Suppose the Bank of England runs off! But here we are at the lodge-gate. Let's ask Gates, another of Mr. Brough's victims;" and we went in and spoke to old Gates.

"Well, Mr. Gates," says I, beginning the matter cleverly, "you are one of my masters, you know, at the West Diddlesex yonder?"

"Yees, sure," says old Gates, grinning. He was a retired servant, with a large family come to him in his old age.

"May I ask you what your wages are, Mr. Gates, that you can lay by so much money, and purchase shares in our Company?"

Gates told us his wages; and when we inquired whether they were paid regularly, swore that his master was the kindest gentleman in the world; that he had put two of his daughters into service, two of his sons to charity-schools, made one apprentice, and narrated a hundred other benefits that he had received from the family. Lady Brough clothed half the children; master gave them blankets and coats in winter, and soup and meat all the year round. There never was such a generous family, sure, since the world began.

"Well, Sir," said I to the captain, "does that satisfy you? Mr. Brough gives to these people fifty times as much as he gains from them; and yet he makes Mr. Gates take shares in our Company."

"Mr. Titmarsh," says the captain, "you are an honest fellow; and I confess your argument sounds well. Now, tell me, do you know any thing about Miss Brough and her fortune?"

"Brough will leave her every thing, — or says so." But I suppose the captain saw some particular expression in my countenance, for he laughed and said, —

"I suppose, my dear fellow, you think she's dear at the price. Well, I don't know that you are far wrong."

"Why, then, if I may make so bold, Captain Fizgig, are you always at her heels?"

"Mr. Titmarsh," says the captain, "I owe twenty thousand pounds;" and he went back to the house directly, and proposed for her.

I thought this rather cruel and unprincipled conduct on the gentleman's part, for he had been introduced to the family by Mr. Tidd, with whom he had been at school, and had supplanted Tidd entirely in the great heiress's affections. Brough stormed, and actually swore at his daughter (as the captain told me afterwards), when he heard that the latter had accepted Mr. Fizgig; and at last, seeing the captain, made him give his word that the engagement should be kept secret for a few months. And Captain F. only made a confidant of me, and the mess, as he said; but this was after Tidd had paid his twenty thousand pounds over to our governor, which he did punctually when he came of age. The same day, too, he proposed for the young lady, and I need not say was rejected. Presently the captain's engagement began to be whispered about; and all his great relations, the Duke of Doncaster, the Earl of Cinquars, the Earl of Crabs, &c., came and visited the Brough family; the Hon. Henry Ringwood became a shareholder in our Company, and the Earl of Crabs offered to be. Our shares rose to a premium; our director, his lady, and

daughter were presented at court; and the great West Diddlesex Association bid fair to be the first assurance office in the kingdom.

A very short time after my visit to Fulham, my dear aunt wrote to me, to say that she had consulted with her attorneys, Messrs. Hodge and Smithers, who strongly recommended that she should invest the sum as I advised. She had the sum invested, too, in my name, paying me many compliments upon my honesty and talent, of which, she said, Mr. Brough had given her the most flattering account. And at the same time, my aunt informed me, that at her death the shares should be my own. This gave me a great weight in the Company, as you may imagine. At our next annual meeting, I attended in my capacity as a shareholder, and had great pleasure in hearing Mr. Brough, in a magnificent speech, declare a dividend of six per cent., that we all received over the counter.

"You lucky young scoundrel!" said Brough to me; "do you know what made me give you your place?"

"Why, my aunt's money, to be sure, Sir," said I.

"No such thing. Do you fancy I cared for those paltry three thousand pounds? I was told you were nephew of Lady Drum; and Lady Drum is grandmother of Lady Jane Preston; and Mr. Preston is a man, who can do us a world of good. I knew that they had sent you venison, and the deuce knows what; and when I saw Lady Jane at my party shake you by the hand, and speak to you so kindly, I took all Abednego's tales for gospel. *That* was the reason you got the place, mark you, and not on account of your miserable three thousand pounds. Well, Sir, a fortnight after you was with us at Fulham, I met Preston in the House, and made a merit of having given the place to his cousin. 'Confound the insolent scoundrel!' said he; '*he* my cousin! I suppose you take all old Drum's stories for true? Why, man, it's her mania; she never is introduced to a man but she finds out a cousinship, and would not fail, of course, with that cur of a Titmarsh!' 'Well,' said I, laughing, 'that cur has got a good place in consequence, and the matter can't be mended.' So you see," continued

our director, "that you were indebted for your place not to your aunt's money, but —"

"But MY AUNT'S DIAMOND-PIN!"

"Lucky rascal!" said Brough, poking me in the side, and going out of the way. And lucky, in faith, I thought I was.

CHAPTER VIII.

Relates the happiest day of Samuel Titmarsh's life.

I DON'T know how it was that in the course of the next six months Mr. Roundhand, the actuary, who had been such a profound admirer of Mr. Brough and the West Diddlesex Association, suddenly quarrelled with both, and taking his money out of the concern, he disposed of his 5000*l.* shares to a pretty good profit, — went away speaking every thing that was evil both of the Company and the director.

Mr. Highmore now became secretary and actuary, Mr. Abednego was first clerk, and your humble servant was second in the office at a salary of 200*l.* a-year. How unfounded were Mr. Roundhand's aspersions of the West Diddlesex appeared quite clearly at our meeting in January 1823, when our chief director, in one of the most brilliant speeches ever heard, declared that the half-yearly dividend was 4*l.* per cent., at the rate of 8*l.* per cent. per annum, and I sent to my aunt 120*l.* sterling as the amount of the interest of the stock in my name.

My excellent aunt, Mrs. Hoggarty, delighted beyond measure, sent me back 10*l.* for my own pocket, and asked me if she had not better sell Slopperton and Squashtail, and invest all her money in this admirable concern.

On this point I could not surely do better than ask the opinion of Mr. Brough. Mr. B. told me that shares could not be had, but at a premium; but on my representing that I knew of 5000*l.* worth in the market at par, he said — Well, if so, he would take a fair price for his, and would not mind disposing of 5000*l.* worth, as he had rather a glut of West Diddlesex shares, and his other concerns wanted feeding with ready money. At the end of our conversation, of which I promised

to report the purport to Mrs. Hoggarty, the director was so kind as to say that he had determined on creating a place of private secretary to the managing director, and that I should hold that office with an additional salary of 50*l.*

I had 250*l.* a-year, Miss Smith had 70*l.* per annum to her fortune. What had I said should be my line of conduct whenever I could realise 300*l.* a-year?

Gus of course, and all the gents in our office through him, knew of my engagement with Mary Smith. Her father had been a commander in the navy and a very distinguished officer; and though Mary, as I have said, only brought me a fortune of 70*l.* a-year, and I, as every body said, in my present position in the office and the city of London, might have reasonably looked out for a lady with much more money; yet my friends agreed that the connexion was very respectable, and I was content, as who would not have been with such a darling as Mary? I am sure, for my part, I would not have taken the lord mayor's own daughter in place of Mary with a plum to her fortune.

Mr. Brough, of course, was made aware of my approaching marriage, as of every thing else relating to every clerk in the office; and I do believe Abednego told him what we had for dinner every day. Indeed, his knowledge of our affairs was wonderful.

He asked me how Mary's money was invested. It was in the three per cent. consols — 2333*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

"Remember," says he, "my lad, Mrs. Sam Titmarsh that is to be may have seven per cent for her money at the very least, and on better security than the bank of England; for is not a company of which John Brough is the head better than any other company in England?" And to be sure I thought he was not far wrong, and promised to speak to Mary's guardians on the subject before our marriage. Lieutenant Smith, her grandfather, had been at the first very much averse to our union. (I must confess that one day finding me alone with her, and kissing, I believe, the tips of her little fingers, he had taken me by the collar and turned me out of doors). But Sam

Titmarsh, with a salary of 250*l.*, a promised fortune of 150*l.* more, and the right-hand man of John Brough of London, was a very different man from Sam the poor clerk, and the poor clergyman's widow's son; and the old gentleman wrote me a kind letter enough, and begged me to get him six pairs of lamb's-wool stockings and four ditto waistcoats from Romanis', and accepted them too as a present from me when I went down in June — in happy June of 1823 — to fetch my dear Mary away.

Mr. Brough was likewise kindly anxious about my aunt's Slopperton and Squashtail property, which she had not as yet sold, as she talked of doing; and, as Mr. B. represented, it was a sin and a shame that any person in whom he took such interest, as he did in all the relatives of his dear young friend, should only have three per cent. for her money, when she could have eight elsewhere. He always called me Sam now, praised me to the other young men (who brought the praises regularly to me), said there was a cover always laid for me at Fulham, and repeatedly took me thither. There was but little company when I went; and Mac Whirter used to say he only asked me on days when he had his vulgar acquaintances. But I did not care for the great people, not being born in their sphere; and, indeed, did not much care for going to the house at all. Miss Belinda was not at all to my liking. After her engagement with Captain Fizgig, and after Mr. Tidd had paid his 20,000*l.*, and Fizgig's great relations had joined in some of our director's companies, Mr. Brough declared he believed that Captain Fizgig's views were mercenary, and put him to the proof at once, by saying that he must take Miss Brough without a farthing, or not have her at all. Whereupon Captain Fizgig got an appointment in the colonies, and Miss Brough became more ill-humoured than ever. But I could not help thinking she was rid of a bad bargain, and pitying poor Tidd, who came back to the charge again more love-sick than ever, and was rebuffed pitilessly by Miss Belinda. Her father plainly told Tidd, too, that his visits were disagreeable to Belinda, and though he must always love and

value him, he begged him to discontinue his calls at the Rookery. Poor fellow! he had paid his 20,000*l.* away for nothing! for what was six per cent. to him compared to six per cent. and the hand of Miss Belinda Brough?

Well Mr. Brough pitied the poor love-sick swain, as he called me, so much, and felt such a warm sympathy in my well-being, that he insisted on my going down to Somersetshire with a couple of months' leave: and away I went, as happy as a lark, with a couple of bran new suits from Von Stiltz's in my trunk (I had them made, looking forward to a certain event), and inside the trunk Lieutenant Smith's fleecy hosiery, wrapping up a parcel of our prospectuses and two letters from John Brough, Esq., to my mother, our worthy annuitant, and to Mrs. Hoggarty, our excellent shareholder. Mr. Brough said, I was all that the fondest father could wish, that he considered me as his own boy, and that he earnestly begged Mrs. Hoggarty not to delay the sale of her little landed property, as land was high now and *must fall*, as the West Diddlesex Association shares were (comparatively) low, and must inevitably, in the course of a year or two, double, treble, quadruple their present value.

In this way I was prepared, and in this way I took leave of my dear Gus. As we parted in the yard of the Bolt-in-Tun, Fleet Street, I felt that I never should go back to Salisbury Square again, and had made my little present to the landlady's family accordingly. She said I was the respectablest gentleman she had ever had in her house: nor was that saying much, for Bell Lane is in the rules of the Fleet, and her lodgers used commonly to be prisoners on rule from that place. As for Gus, the poor fellow cried and blubbered so that he could not eat a morsel of the muffins and grilled ham with which I treated him for breakfast in the Bolt-in-Tun coffee-house; and when I went away was waving his hat and his handkerchief so in the archway of the coach-office, that I do believe the wheels of the True Blue went over his toes, for I heard him roaring as we passed through the arch. Ah! how different were my feelings as I sat proudly there on the box by the side

of Jim Ward, the coachman, to those I had the last time I mounted that coach, parting from my dear Mary and coming to London with my DIAMOND-PIN!

When arrived near home (at Grumpley, three miles from our village, where the True Blue generally stops to take a glass of ale at the Poppleton Arms) it was as if our member, Mr. Poppleton himself, was come into the country, so great was the concourse of people assembled round the inn. And there was the landlord of the inn and all the people of the village. Then there was Tom Wheeler the post-boy from Mrs. Rincer's posting-hotel in our town, and he was riding on the old bay posters, and they, Heaven bless us! were drawing my aunt's yellow chariot in which she never went out but thrice in a year, and in which she sat in her splendid cashmere shawl and a new hat and feather. She waved a white handkerchief out of the window, and Tom Wheeler shouted out huzza, as did a number of the little blackguard boys of Grumpley, who, to be sure, would huzza for any thing. What a change in Tom Wheeler's part, however? I remembered only a few years before how he had whipped me from the box of the chaise, as I was hanging on for a ride behind.

Next to my aunt's carriage came the four-wheeled chaise of Lieutenant Smith, R.N., who was driving his old fat pony with his lady by his side. I looked in the back seat of the chaise, and felt a little sad at seeing that *Somebody* was not there. But, O silly fellow! there was Somebody in the yellow chariot with my aunt, blushing like a peony, I declare, and looking so happy! — O! so happy and pretty! She had a white dress, and a light blue and yellow scarf, which my aunt said were the Hoggarty colours; though what the Hoggartys had to do with light blue and yellow, I don't know to this day.

Well, the True Blue guard made a great bellowing on his horn, as his four horses dashed away; the boys shouted again; I was placed bodkin between Mrs. Hoggarty and Mary; Tom Wheeler cut into his bays; the lieutenant (who had shaken me cordially by the hand, and whose big dog did not make the slightest attempt at biting me this time) beat his pony till its

fat sides lathered again; and thus in this, I may say, unexampled procession, I arrived in triumph at our village.

My dear mother and the girls, — Heaven bless them! — nine of them in their nankeen spencers (I had something pretty in my trunk for each of them) — could not afford a carriage, but had posted themselves on the road near the village; and there was such a waving of hands and handkerchiefs; and though my aunt did not much notice them, except by a majestic toss of the head, which is pardonable in a woman of her property, yet Mary Smith did even more than I, and waved her hands as much as the whole nine. Ah! how my dear mother cried and blessed me when we met, and called me her soul's comfort and her darling boy, and looked at me as if I were a paragon of virtue and genius; whereas I was only a very lucky young fellow, that by the aid of kind friends had stepped rapidly into a very pretty property.

I was not to stay with my mother, — that had been arranged before-hand; for though she and Mrs. Hoggarty were not remarkably good friends, yet mother said it was for my benefit that I should stay with my aunt, and so gave up the pleasure of having me with her; and though hers was much the humbler house of the two, I need not say I preferred it far to Mrs. Hoggarty's more splendid one, let alone the horrible Rosolio, of which I was obliged now to drink gallons.

It was to Mrs. H.'s then we were driven; and she had prepared a great dinner that evening, and hired an extra waiter; and on getting out of the carriage, she gave a sixpence to Tom Wheeler, saying that was for himself, and that she would settle with Mrs. Rincer for the horses afterwards. At which Tom flung the sixpence upon the ground, swore most violently, and was very justly called by my aunt an "impertinent fellow."

She had taken such a liking to me that she would hardly bear me out of her sight. We used to sit for morning after morning over her accounts, debating for hours together the propriety of selling the Slopperton property (but no arrangement was come to yet about it, for Hodge and Smithers

could not get the price she wanted). And, moreover, she vowed that at her decease she would leave every shilling to me.

Hodge and Smithers, too, gave a grand party, and treated me with marked consideration, as did every single person of the village. Those who could not afford to give dinners gave teas, and all drank the health of the young couple; and many a time after dinner or supper was my Mary made to blush by the allusions to the change in her condition.

The happy day for that ceremony was now fixed, and the 24th July, 1823, saw me the happiest husband of the prettiest girl in Somersetshire. We were married from my mother's house, who would insist upon that at any rate, and the nine girls acted as bridesmaids; ay! and Gus Hoskins came from town express to be my groomsman, and had my old room at my mother's, and stayed with her for a week, and cast a sheep's-eye upon Miss Winny Titmarsh too, my dear fourth sister, as I afterwards learned.

My aunt was very kind upon the marriage ceremony indeed. She had ordered me some weeks previous to order three magnificent dresses for Mary from the celebrated Madame Mantalini of London, and some elegant trinkets and embroidered pocket-handkerchiefs from Howell and James's. These were sent down to me, and were to be *my* present to the bride; but Mrs. Hoggarty gave me to understand that I need never trouble myself about the payment of the bill, and I thought her conduct very generous. Also she lent us her chariot for the wedding journey, and made with her own hands a beautiful crimson satin reticule for Mrs. Samuel Titmarsh, her dear niece. It contained a huswife completely furnished with needles, &c., for she hoped Mrs. Titmarsh would never neglect her needle; and a purse, containing some silver pennies; and a very curious pocket-piece. "As long as you keep these, my dear," said Mrs. Hoggarty, "you will never want; and fervently — fervently do I pray that you will keep them." In the carriage-pocket we found a paper of biscuits and a bottle of Rosolio. We laughed at this, and made it over to

Tom Wheeler, who, however, did not seem to like it much better than we.

I need not say I was married in Mr. Von Stiltz's coat (the third and fourth coats, Heaven help us! in a year) and that I wore sparkling in my bosom the GREAT HOGGARTY DIAMOND.

CHAPTER IX.

Brings back Sam, his wife, aunt, and diamond, to London.

WE pleased ourselves during the honeymoon with forming plans for our life in London, and a pretty paradise did we build for ourselves! Well, we were but forty years old between us; and, for my part, I never found any harm come of castle-building, and a great deal of pleasure.

Before I left London I had, to say the truth, looked round me for a proper place, befitting persons of our small income; and Gus Hoskins and I, who hunted after office hours in couples, had fixed on a very snug little cottage in Camden Town, where there was a garden that certain *small people* might play in when they came; a horse and gig-house, if ever we kept one, — and why not in a few years? — and a fine healthy air, at a reasonable distance from 'Change; all for 30*l.* a-year. I had described this little spot to Mary as enthusiastically as Sancho describes Lizias to Gil Blas; and my dear wife was delighted with the prospect of house-keeping there, vowed she would cook all the best dishes herself (especially jam-pudding, of which I confess I am very fond), and promised Gus that he should dine with us at Clematis Bower every Sunday, only he must not smoke those horrid cigars. As for Gus, he vowed he would have a room in the neighbourhood too, for he could not bear to go back to Bell Lane, where we two had been so happy together; and so good-natured Mary said she would ask my sister Winny to come and keep her company. At which Hoskins blushed, and said, "Pooh! nonsense now."

But all our hopes of a happy, snug Clematis Lodge were dashed to the ground on our return from our little honeymoon excursion, when Mrs. Hoggarty informed us that she was sick of the country, and was determined to go to London, with her dear nephew and niece, and keep house for them, and introduce them to her friends in the metropolis.

What could we do? We wished her at — Bath certainly, not in London. But there was no help for it; and we were obliged to bring her; for, as my mother said, if we offended her, her fortune would go out of our family; and were we two young people not likely to want it?

So we came to town rather dismally in the carriage; posting the whole way, for the carriage must be brought, and a person of my aunt's rank in life could not travel by the stage. And I had to pay 14*l.* for the posters, which pretty nearly exhausted all my little hoard of cash.

First we went into lodgings, — into three sets in three weeks. We quarrelled with the first landlady, because my aunt vowed that she cut a slice off the leg of mutton which was served for our dinner; from the second lodgings we went because aunt vowed the maid would steal the candles; from the third we went because aunt Hoggarty came down to breakfast the morning after our arrival with her face shockingly swelled and bitten by — never mind what. To cut a long tale short, I was half mad with the continual choppings and changings, and the long stories and scoldings of my aunt. As for her great acquaintances, none of them were in London; and she made it a matter of quarrel with me that I had not introduced her to John Brough, Esquire, M. P., and to Lord and Lady Tiptoff, her relatives.

Mr. Brough was at Brighton when we arrived in town; and on his return I did not care at first to tell our director that I had brought my aunt with me, or mention my embarrassments for money. He looked rather serious when perforce I spoke of the latter to him, and asked for an advance; but when he heard that my lack of money had been occasioned by the bringing of my aunt to London, his tone instantly changed.

“That, my dear boy, alters the question; Mrs. Hoggarty is of an age when all things must be yielded to her. Here are a hundred pounds; and I beg you to draw upon me whenever you are in the least in want of money.” This gave me breathing time until she should pay her share of the household expenses. And the very next day Mr. and Mrs. John Brough, in their splendid carriage-and-four, called upon Mrs. Hoggarty and my wife in our lodgings, in Lamb’s Conduit Street.

It was on the very day when my poor aunt appeared with her face in that sad condition; and she did not fail to inform Mrs. Brough of the cause, and to state that at Castle Hoggarty, or at her country place in Somersetshire, she had never heard or thought of such vile odious things.

“Gracious Heavens!” shouted John Brough, Esquire, “a lady of your rank to suffer in this way! — the excellent relative of my dear boy, Titmarsh! Never, Madam — never let it be said that Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty should be subject to such horrible humiliation, while John Brough has a home to offer her, — a humble, happy, Christian home, Madam, though unlike, perhaps, the splendour to which you have been accustomed in the course of your distinguished career. Isabella, my love! — Belinda! — speak to Mrs. Hoggarty. Tell her that John Brough’s house is hers from garret to cellar — I repeat it, Madam, from garret to cellar. I desire — I insist — I order that Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty’s trunks should be placed this instant in my carriage! Have the goodness to look to them yourself, Mrs. Titmarsh, and see that your dear aunt’s comforts are better provided for than they have been.”

Mary went away rather wondering at this order. But, to be sure, Mr. Brough was a great man, and her Samuel’s benefactor; and though the silly child absolutely began to cry as she packed and toiled at aunt’s enormous valises, yet she performed the work, and came down with a smiling face to my aunt, who was entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Brough with a long and particular account of the balls at the Castle, in Dublin, in Lord Charleville’s time.

"I have packed the trunks, aunt, but I am not strong enough to bring them down," said Mary.

"Certainly not, certainly not," said John Brough, perhaps a little ashamed. "Hallo! George Frederic Augustus, come up-stairs this instant, and bring down the trunks of Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty, which this young lady will show you."

Nay, so great was Mr. Brough's condescension, that when some of his fashionable servants refused to meddle with the trunks, he himself seized a pair of them with both hands, carried them to the carriage, and shouted loud enough for all Lamb's Conduit Street to hear, "John Brough is not proud — no, no; and if his footmen are too high and mighty, he'll show them a lesson of humility."

Mrs. Brough was for running down-stairs too, and taking the trunks from her husband, but they were too heavy for her; so she contented herself with sitting on one, and asking all persons who passed her whether John Brough was not an angel of a man?

In this way it was that my aunt left us. I was not aware of her departure, for I was at the office at the time; and strolling back at five with Gus, saw my dear Mary smiling and bobbing from the window, and beckoning to us both to come up. This I thought was very strange, because Mrs. Hoggarty could not abide Hoskins, and indeed, had told me, repeatedly that either she or he must quit the house. Well, we went up-stairs, and there was Mary, who had dried her tears, and received us with the most smiling of faces, and laughed and clapped her hands, and danced, and shook Gus's hand. And what do you think the little rogue proposed? I am blest if she did not say she would like to go to Vauxhall!

As dinner was laid for three persons only, Gus took his seat with fear and trembling; and then Mrs. Sam Titmarsh related the circumstances which had occurred, and how Mrs. Hoggarty had been whisked away to Fulham in Mr. Brough's splendid carriage-and-four. "Let her go," I am sorry to

say said I; and, indeed, we relished our veal cutlets and jam-pudding a great deal more than Mrs. Hoggarty did her dinner off plate at the Rookery.

We had a very merry party to Vauxhall, Gus insisting on standing treat; and you may be certain that my aunt, whose absence was prolonged for three weeks, was heartily welcome to remain away, for we were much merrier and more comfortable without her. My little Mary used to make my breakfast before I went to office of mornings; and on Sundays we had a holiday, and saw the dear little children eat their boiled beef and potatoes at the Foundling, and heard the beautiful music; but, beautiful as it is, I think the children were a more beautiful sight still, and the look of their innocent happy faces was better than the best sermon. On week days Mrs. Titmarsh would take a walk about five o'clock in the evening, on the *left* hand side of Lamb's Conduit Street (as you go to Holborn) — ay, and sometimes pursue her walk as far as Snow Hill, when two young gents from the I. W. D. Fire and Life were pretty sure to meet her; and then how happily we all trudged off to dinner! Once we came up as a monster of a man, with high heels and a gold-headed cane, and whiskers all over his face, was grinning under Mary's bonnet, and chattering to her close to Day and Martin's blacking manufactory (not near such a handsome thing then as it is now)—there was the man chattering and ogling his best, when who should come up but Gus and I? And in the twinkling of a pegpost, as Lord Duberley says, my gentleman was seized by the collar of his coat, and found himself sprawling under a stand of hackney coaches, where all the watermen were grinning at him. The best of it was, he left his *head of hair and whiskers* in my hand; but Mary said, "Don't be hard upon him, Samuel; it's only a Frenchman." And so we gave him his wig back, which one of the grinning stable-boys put on and carried to him as he lay in the straw.

He shrieked out something about "*arrêtez*," and "*Français*," and "*champ-d'honneur*;" but we walked on, Gus putting his thumb to his nose, and stretching out his finger at Master

Frenchman. This made every body laugh; and so the adventure ended.

About ten days after my aunt's departure came a letter from her, of which I give a copy: —

My dear Nephew, — It was my earnest wish e'er this to have returned to London, where I am sure you and my niece Titmarsh miss me very much, and where she, poor thing, quite inexperienced in the ways of "the great metropulus," in aconamy, and indeed in every qualaty requasit in a good wife and the mistress of a famaly, can hardly manidge, I am sure, without me.

Tell her *on no account* to pay more than 6½*d.* for the prime pieces, 4¾*d.* for soup-meat; and that the very best of London butter is to be had for 8½*d.*; of course, for pudns and the kitchin you'll employ a commoner sort. My trunks were sadly packed by Mrs. Titmarsh, and the hasp of the portmantyou-lock has gone through my yellow satn. I have darned it, and wear it already twice, at two ellygant (though quiet) evening parties, given by my *hospatable* host; and my pegreen velvet on Saturday at a grand dinner, when Lord Scaramouch handed me to table. Every thing was in the most *sumptuous style*. Soup top and bottom (white and brown) removed by turbit and sammon, with *immence boles of lobster-sauce*. Lobsters alone cost 15*s.* Turbit, three guineas. The hole sammon, weighing I'm sure 15*lbs.*, and *never seen* at table again; not a bitt of pickled sammon the hole weak afterwards. This kind of extravagance would *just suit* Mrs. Sam Titmarsh, who, as I always say, burns *the candle at both ends*. Well, young people, it is lucky for you you have an old aunt who knows better, and has a long purse, without which, I dare say, *some* folks would be glad to see her out of doors. I don't mean you, Samuel, who have, I must say, been a dutiful nephew to me. Well, I dare say, I shan't live long, and some folks won't be sorry to have me in my grave.

Indeed, on Sunday I was taken in my stomick very ill, and thought it might have been the lobster-sauce; but Doctor Blogg, who was called in, said it was, he very much feared, *cumsumptive*; but gave me some pils and a draft, wh^h made me better. Please call upon him — he lives at Pimlico, and you can walk out there after office hours — and present him with 1*l.* 1*s.*, with my compliments. I have no money here but a 10*l.* note, the rest being locked up in my box at Lamb's Cundit Street.

Although the flesh is not neglected in Mr. B.'s sumptuous establishment, I can assure you the *sperrit* is likewise cared for. Mr. B. reads and igspounds every morning; and o but his exorcises refresh the hungry sole before breakfast! Everything is in the handsomest style, — silver and goold plate at breakfast, lunch, and dinner; and his crest and motty, a behive, with the Latn word *Industria*, meaning industry, on *every thing* — even on the chany juggs and things in my bedd-room. On Sunday we were favored by a special outpouring from the Rev.

Grimes Wapshot, of the Amabaptist Congregation here, and who egshorted for 3 hours in the afternoon in Mr. B.'s private chapel. As the widow of a Hoggarty, I have always been a staunch supporter of the established Church of England and Ireland; but I must say Mr. Wapshot's stirring way was far superior to that of the Rev. Bland Blenkinsop of the Establishment, who lifted up his voice after dinner for a short discourse of two hours.

Mrs. Brough is, between ourselves, a poor creature, and has no sperrit of her own. As for Miss B., she is so saucy that once I promised to box her years; and would have left the house, had not Mr. B. taken my part, and Miss made me a suitable apollogy.

I don't know when I shall return to town, being made really so welcome here. Doctor Blogg says the air of Fulham is the best in the world for my simtums; and as the ladies of the house do not choose to walk out with me, the Rev. Grimes Wapshot has often been kind enough to lend me his arm, and 't is sweet with such a guide to wander both to Putney and Wandsworth, and igsamin the wonderful works of nature. I have spoke to him about the Slopperton property, and he is not of Mr. B.'s opinion that I should sell it; but on this point I shall follow my own counsel.

Meantime you must gett into more comfortable lodgings, and lett my bedd be warmed every night, and of rainy days have a fire in the grate; and let Mrs. Titmarsh look up my blew silk dress, and turn it against I come; and there is my purple spencer she can have for herself; and I hope she does not wear those three splendid gowns you gave her, but keep them until *better times*. I shall soon introduse her to my friend Mr. Brough, and others of my acquaintances; and am always

Your loving Aunt.

I have ordered a chest of the Rosolio to be sent from Somersetshire. When it comes, please to send half down here (paying the carriage, of course). 'T will be an acceptable present to my kind entertainer, Mr. B.

This letter was brought to me by Mr. Brough himself at the office; who apologised to me for having broken the seal by inadvertence; for the letter had been mingled with some more of his own, and he opened it without looking at the superscription. Of course he had not read it, and I was glad of that; for I should not have liked him to see my aunt's opinion of his daughter and lady.

The next day a gentleman at Tom's Coffeehouse, Cornhill, sent me word at the office that he wanted particularly to speak to me; and I stepped thither, and found my old friend Smithers,

of the house of Hodge and Smithers, just off the coach, with his carpet-bag between his legs.

"Sam, my boy," said he, "you are your aunt's heir, and I have a piece of news for you regarding her property which you ought to know. She wrote us down a letter for a chest of that home-made wine of hers which she calls Rosolio, and which lies in our warehouse along with her furniture."

"Well," says I, smiling, "she may part with as much Rosolio, as she likes for me. I cede all my right."

"Psha!" says Smithers, "it's not that, though her furniture puts us to a deuced inconvenience, to be sure — it's not that; but, in the postscript of her letter, she orders us to advertise the Slopperton and Squashtail estates for immediate sale, as she purposes placing her capital elsewhere."

I knew that the Slopperton and Squashtail property had been the source of a very pretty income to Messrs. Hodge and Smithers, for aunt was always at law with her tenants, and paid dearly for her litigious spirit; so that Mr. Smithers's concern regarding the sale of it did not seem to me to be quite disinterested.

"And did you come to London, Mr. Smithers, expressly to acquaint me with this fact? It seems to me you had much better have obeyed my aunt's instructions at once, or go to her at Fulham and consult with her on this subject."

"Sdeath, Mr. Titmarsh! don't you see that if she makes a sale of her property, she will hand over the money to Brough; and if Brough gets the money, he —"

"Will give her seven per cent. for it instead of three, — there's no harm in that."

"But there's such a thing as security, look you. He is a warm man, certainly — very warm — quite respectable — most undoubtedly respectable. But who knows? A panic may take place; and then these five hundred companies in which he is engaged may bring him to ruin. There's the Ginger Beer Company, of which Brough is a director; awkward reports are abroad concerning it. The Consolidated Baffin's Bay Muff and Tippet Company — the shares are down very low, and

Brough is a director there. The Patent Pump Company — shares at 65, and a fresh call, which nobody will pay.”

“Nonsense, Mr. Smithers! Has not Mr. Brough five hundred thousand pounds worth of shares in the INDEPENDENT WEST DIDDLESEX, and is THAT at a discount? Who recommended my aunt to invest her money in that speculation, I should like to know?” I had him there.

“Well, well, it is a very good speculation, certainly, and has brought you three hundred a year, Sam, my boy; and you may thank us for the interest we took in you (indeed, we loved you as a son, and Miss Hodge has not recovered a certain marriage yet). You don’t intend to rebuke us for making your fortune, do you?”

“No, hang it, no!” says I, and shook hands with him, and accepted a glass of sherry and biscuits, which he ordered forthwith.

Smithers returned, however, to the charge, — “Sam,” he said, “mark my words, and *take your aunt away from the Rookery*. She wrote to Mrs. S. a long account of a reverend gent with whom she walks out there, — the Rev. Grimes Wapshot. That man has an eye upon her. He was tried at Lancaster in the year ’14 for forgery, and narrowly escaped with his neck. Have a care of him — he has an eye to her money.”

“Nay,” said I, taking out Mrs. Hoggarty’s letter, “read for yourself.”

He read it over very carefully, seemed to be amused by it, and as he returned it to me, “Well, Sam,” he said, “I have only two favours to ask of you, — one is not to mention that I am in town to any living soul, and the other is to give me a dinner in Lamb’s Conduit Street with your pretty wife.”

“I promise you both gladly,” I said, laughing. “But if you dine with us, your arrival in town must be known, for my friend Gus Hoskins dines with us likewise; and has done so nearly every day since my aunt went.”

He laughed too, and said, “We must swear Gus to secrecy over a bottle.” And so we parted till dinner-time.

The indefatigable lawyer pursued his attack after dinner, and was supported by Gus and by my wife too, who certainly was disinterested in the matter — more than disinterested, for she would have given a great deal to be spared my aunt's company. But she said she saw the force of Mr. Smithers's arguments, and I admitted their justice with a sigh. However, I rode my high horse, and vowed that my aunt should do what she liked with her money; and that I was not the man who would influence her in any way in the disposal of it.

After tea, the two gents walked away together, and Gus told me that Smithers had asked him a thousand questions about the office, about Brough, about me and my wife, and every thing concerning us. "You are a lucky fellow, Mr. Hoskins, and seem to be the friend of this charming young couple," said Smithers; and Gus confessed he was, and said he had dined with us fifteen times in six weeks, and that a better and more hospitable fellow than I did not exist. This I state not to trumpet my own praises, — no, no; but because these questions of Smithers's had a good deal to do with the subsequent events narrated in this little history.

Being seated at dinner the next day off the cold leg of mutton that Smithers had admired so the day before, and Gus, as usual having his legs under our mahogany, a hackney-coach drove up to the door, which we did not much heed; a step was heard on the floor, which we hoped might be for the two-pair lodger, and who should burst into the room but Mrs. Hoggarty herself! Gus, who was blowing the froth off a pot of porter preparatory to a delicious drink of the beverage, and had been making us die of laughing with his stories and jokes, laid down the pewter pot as Mrs. H. came in, and looked quite sick and pale. Indeed, we all felt a little uneasy.

My aunt looked haughtily in Mary's face, then fiercely at Gus, and saying "It is too true — my poor boy *already!*" flung herself hysterically into my arms, and swore, almost choking, that she would never, never, leave me.

I could not understand the meaning of this extraordinary agitation on Mrs. Hoggarty's part, nor could any of us.

She refused Mary's hand when the poor thing rather nervously offered it; and when Gus timidly said, "I think, Sam, I'm rather in the way here, and perhaps — had better go," Mrs. H. looked him full in the face, pointed to the door majestically with her fore-finger, and said, "I think, Sir, you *had* better go."

"I hope Mr. Hoskins will stay as long as he pleases," said my wife with spirit.

"*Of course* you hope so, Madam," answered Mrs. Hoggarty, very sarcastic. But Mary's speech and my aunt's were quite lost upon Gus; for he had instantly run to his hat, and I heard him tumbling down-stairs.

The quarrel ended, as usual, by Mary's bursting into a fit of tears, and by my aunt's repeating the assertion that it was not too late, she trusted; and from that day forth she would never, never leave me.

"What could have made aunt return and be so angry?" said I to Mary, that night as we were in our own room; but my wife protested she did not know; and it was only some time after that I found out the reason of this quarrel, and of Mrs. H.'s sudden reappearance.

The horrible, fat, coarse little Smithers told me the matter as a very good joke, only the other year, when he showed me the letter of Hixon, Dixon, Paxon, and Jackson, which has before been quoted in my Memoirs.

"Sam, my boy," said he, "you were determined to leave Mrs. Hoggarty in Brough's clutches at the Rookery, and I was determined to have her away. I resolved to kill two of your mortal enemies with one stone, as it were. It was quite clear to me that the Rev. Grimes Wapshot had an eye to your aunt's fortune; and that Mr. Brough had similar predatory intentions regarding her. Predatory is a mild word, Sam; if I had said robbery at once, I should express my meaning clearer.

"Well, I took the Fulham stage, and, arriving, made straight for the lodgings of the reverend gentleman. 'Sir,' said I, on finding that worthy gent, — he was drinking

warm brandy-and-water, Sam, at two o'clock in the day, or at least the room smelt very strongly of that beverage — 'Sir,' says I, 'you were tried for forgery in the year '14, at Lancaster assizes.'

"'And acquitted, Sir. My innocence was by Providence made clear,' said Wapshot.

"'But you were not acquitted of embezzlement in '16, Sir,' says I, 'and passed two years in York gaol in consequence.' I knew the fellow's history, for I had a writ out against him when he was a preacher at Clifton. I followed up my blow. 'Mr. Wapshot,' said I, 'you are making love to an excellent lady now at the house of Mr. Brough; if you do not promise to give up all pursuit of her, I will expose you.'

"'I *have* promised,' said Wapshot, rather surprised, and looking more easy. 'I have given my solemn promise to Mr. Brough, who was with me this very morning, storming, and scolding, and swearing. O, Sir, it would have frightened you to hear a Christian babe like him swear as he did.'

"'Mr. Brough been here?' says I, rather astonished.

"'Yes; I suppose you are both here on the same scent,' says Wapshot. 'You want to marry the widow with the Slopperton and Squashtail estate, do you? Well, well, have your way. I've promised not to have anything more to do with the widow, and a Wapshot's honour is sacred.'

"'I suppose, Sir,' says I, 'Mr. Brough has threatened to kick you out of doors if you call again.'

"'You *have* been with him, I see,' says the reverend gent, with a shrug; and then I remembered what you had told me of the broken seal of your letter, and have not the slightest doubt that Brough opened and read every word of it.

"Well, the first bird was bagged: both I and Brough had had a shot at him. Now I had to fire at the whole Rookery; and off I went, primed and loaded, Sir — primed and loaded.

"It was past eight when I arrived, and I saw, after I passed the lodge-gates, a figure that I knew walking in the

shrubbery — that of your respected aunt, Sir; but I wished to meet the amiable ladies of the house before I saw her, because, look, friend Titmarsh, I saw by Mrs. Hoggarty's letter, that she and they were at daggers drawn, and hoped to get her out of the house at once by means of a quarrel with them."

I laughed, and owned that Mr. Smithers was a very cunning fellow.

"As luck would have it," continued he, "Miss Brough was in the drawing-room twangling on a guitar, and singing most atrociously out of tune; but as I entered at the door, I cried 'Hush!' to the footman, as loud as possible, and then stood stock-still, and then walked forward on tiptoe lightly. Miss B. could see in the glass every movement that I made; she pretended not to see, however, and finished the song with a regular roulade.

"'Gracious Heaven!' said I, 'do, Madam, pardon me for interrupting that delicious harmony, — for coming unaware upon it, for daring uninvited to listen to it.'

"'Do you come for mamma, Sir?' said Miss Brough, with as much graciousness as her physiognomy could command. 'I am Miss Brough, Sir.'

"'I wish, Madam, you would let me not breathe a word regarding my business until you have sung another charming strain.'

"She did not sing, but looked pleased, and said, 'La Sir, what is your business?'

"'My business is with a lady, your respected father's guest in this house.'

"'Oh, Mrs. Hoggarty!' says Miss Brough, flouncing towards the bell, and ringing it. 'John, send to Mrs. Hoggarty, in the shrubbery; here is a gentleman who wants to see her.'

"'I know,' continued I, 'Mrs. Hoggarty's peculiarities as well as any one, Madam; and aware that those and her education are not such as to make her a fit companion for

you: I know you do not like her: she has written to us in Somersetshire that you do not like her.'

"'What! she has been abusing us to her friends, has she?' cried Miss Brough (it was the very point I wished to insinuate). 'If she does not like us, why does she not leave us?'

"'She *has* made rather a long visit,' said I; 'and I am sure that her nephew and niece are longing for her return. Pray, Madam, do not move, for you may aid me in the object for which I come.'

"The object for which I came, Sir, was to establish a regular battle-royal between the two ladies, at the end of which I intended to appeal to Mrs. Hoggarty, and say that she ought really no longer to stay in a house with the members of which she had such unhappy differences. Well, Sir, the battle-royal was fought, — Miss Belinda opening the fire, by saying, she understood Mrs. Hoggarty had been calumniating her to her friends. But though at the end of it Miss rushed out of the room in a rage, and vowed she would leave her home unless that odious woman left it, your dear aunt said, 'Ha, ha! I know the minx's vile stratagems; but thank Heaven, I have a good heart, and my religion enables me to forgive her. I shall not leave her excellent papa's house, or vex by my departure that worthy, admirable man.'

"I then tried Mrs. H. on the score of compassion. 'Your niece,' said I, 'Mrs. Titmarsh, Madam, has been of late, Sam says, rather poorly, — qualmish of mornings, Madam, — a little nervous, and low in spirits, — symptoms, Madam, that are scarcely to be mistaken in a young married person.'

"Mrs. Hoggarty said she had an admirable cordial that she would send Mrs. Samuel Titmarsh, and she was perfectly certain it would do her good.

"With very great unwillingness, I was obliged now to bring my last reserve into the field, and may tell you what that was, Sam, my boy, now that the matter is so long passed. "Madam,' said I, 'there's a matter about which

I must speak, though indeed I scarcely dare. I dined with your nephew yesterday, and met at his table a young man — a young man of low manners, but evidently one who has blinded your nephew, and I too much fear has succeeded in making an impression upon your niece. His name is Hoskins, Madam; and when I state that he who was never in the house during your presence there, has dined with your too-confiding nephew sixteen times in three weeks, I may leave you to imagine what I dare not — dare not imagine myself.

"The shot told. Your aunt bounced up at once, and in ten minutes more was in my carriage, in our way back to London. There, Sir, was not *that* generalship?"

"And you played this pretty trick off at my wife's expense, Mr. Smithers," said I.

"At your wife's expense, certainly, but for the benefit of both of you."

"It's lucky, Sir, that you are an old man," I replied, "and that the affair happened ten years ago; or, by the Lord, Mr. Smithers, I would have given you such a horse-whipping as you never heard of!"

But this was the way in which Mrs. Hoggarty was brought back to her relatives; and this was the reason why we took that house in Bernard Street, the doings at which must now be described.

CHAPTER X.

Of Sam's private affairs, and of the firm of Brough and off.

WE took a genteel house in Bernard Street, Russell Square; and my aunt sent for all her furniture from the country, which would have filled two such houses, but which came pretty cheap to us young house-keepers, as we had only to pay the carriage of the goods from Bristol.

When I brought Mrs. H. her third half-year's dividend, having not for four months touched a shilling of her money, I must say she gave me 50*l.* of the 80*l.*, and told me that was

ample pay for the board and lodging of a poor old woman like her, who did not eat more than a sparrow.

I have myself, in the country, seen her eat nine sparrows in a pudding; but she was rich, and I could not complain. If she saved 600*l.* a year, at the least, by living with us, why all the savings would one day come to me; and so Mary and I consoled ourselves, and tried to manage matters as well as we might. It was no easy task to keep a mansion in Bernard Street, and save money out of 470*l.* a year, which was my income. But what a lucky fellow I was to have such an income!

As Mrs. Hoggarty left the Rookery in Smithers's carriage, Mr. Brough, with his four greys, was entering the lodge-gate; and I should like to have seen the looks of these two gentlemen, as the one was carrying the other's prey off, out of his own very den, under his very nose.

He came to see her the next day, and protested that he would not leave the house until she left it with him: that he had heard of his daughter's infamous conduct, and had seen her in tears — "in tears, Madam, and on her knees, imploring Heaven to pardon her!" But Mr. B. was obliged to leave the house without my aunt, who had a *causa major* for staying, and hardly allowed poor Mary out of her sight, — opening every one of the letters that came into the house directed to my wife, and suspecting hers to every body. Mary never told me of all this pain for many, many years afterwards; but had always a smiling face for her husband when he came home from his work. As for poor Gus, my aunt had so frightened him, that he never once showed his nose in the place all the time we lived there; but used to be content with news of Mary, of whom he was as fond as he was of me.

Mr. Brough, when my aunt left him, was in a furious ill-humour with me. He found fault with me ten times a day, and openly, before the gents of the office; but I let him one day know pretty smartly that I was not only a servant, but a considerable shareholder in the Company; that I defied him to find fault with my work or my regularity, and that I was not

mind to receive any insolent language from him or any man. He said it was always so; that he had never cherished a young man in his bosom but the ingrate had turned on him; that he was accustomed to wrong and undutifulness from his children, and that he would pray that the sin might be forgiven me. A moment before, he had been cursing and swearing at me, and speaking to me as if I had been his shoe-black. But, look you, I was not going to put up with any more of Madam Brough's airs, or of his. With *me* they might act as they thought fit; but I did not choose that my wife should be past over by them as she had been in the matter of the visit to Fulham.

Brough ended by warning me of Hodge and Smithers. "Beware of these men," said he; "but for my honesty, your aunt's landed property would have been sacrificed by these cormorants; and when, for her benefit — which you, obstinate young man, will not perceive — I wished to dispose of her land, her attorneys actually had the audacity — the un-Christian avarice I may say — to ask 10 per cent. commission on the sale.

There might be some truth in this, I thought; at any rate, when rogues fall out, honest men come by their own: and now I began to suspect, I am sorry to say, that both the attorney and the director had a little of the rogue in their composition. It was especially about my wife's fortune that Mr. B. showed *his* cloven foot; for proposing, as usual, that I should purchase shares with it in our Company, I told him that my wife was a minor, and as such her little fortune was vested out of my control altogether. He flung away in a rage at this; and I soon saw that he did not care for me any more, by Abednego's manner to me. No more holidays, no more advances of money, had I; on the contrary, the private clerkship at 50*l.* was abolished, and I found myself on my 250*l.* a year again. Well; what then? it was always a good income, and I did my duty, and laughed at the director.

About this time, in the beginning of 1824, the Jamaica Ginger Beer Company shut up shop — exploded, as Gus said,

with a bang! Th^r Patent Pump shares were down to 15*l*. upon a paid-up capital of 65*l*. Still ours were at a high premium; and the Independent West Diddlesex held its head up as proudly as any office in London. Roundhand's abuse had had some influence against the director, certainly, for he hinted at malversation of shares; but the company still stood united as the Hand-in-Hand, and as firm as the Rock.

To return to the state of affairs in Bernard Street, Russell Square. My aunt's old furniture crammed our little rooms; and my aunt's enormous old jingling grand piano, with crooked legs, and half the strings broken, occupied three-fourths of the little drawing-room. Here used Mrs. H. to sit, and play us, for hours, sonatas that were in fashion in Lord Charleville's time; and sung with a cracked voice, till it was all that we could do to refrain from laughing.

And it was queer to remark the change that had taken place in Mrs. Hoggarty's character now: for whereas she was in the country among the topping persons of the village, and quite content with a tea-party at six, and a game of twopenny whist afterwards; in London she would never dine till seven; would have a fly from the mews, to drive in the park twice a week; cut and uncut, and ripped up, and twisted over and over all her old gowns, flounces, caps, and fallals, and kept my poor Mary from morning till night altering them to the present mode. Mrs. Hoggarty, moreover, appeared in a new wig; and, I am sorry to say, turned out with such a pair of red cheeks as Nature never gave her, and as made all the people in Bernard Street stare, where they are not as yet used to such fashions.

Moreover, she insisted upon our establishing a servant in livery, — a boy, that is, of about sixteen, — who was dressed in one of the old liveries that she had brought with her from Somersetshire, decorated with new cuffs and collars, and new buttons; on the latter were represented the united crests of the Titmarshes and Hoggartys, viz. a tomtit rampant and a hog in armour. I thought this livery and crest-button rather absurd, I must confess, though my family is very ancient.

And Heavens! what a roar of laughter was raised in the office one day, when the little servant in the big livery, with the immense cane, walked in, and brought me a message from Mrs. Hoggarty of Castle Hoggarty! Furthermore, all letters were delivered on a silver tray. If we had had a baby, I believe aunt would have had it down on the tray; but there was as yet no foundation for Mr. Smithers's insinuation upon that score, any more than for his other cowardly fabrication before narrated. Aunt and Mary used to walk gravely up and down the New Road, with the boy following with a great gold-headed stick; but though there was all this ceremouy and parade, and aunt still talked of her acquaintances, we did not see a single person from week's end to week's end; and a more dismal house than ours could hardly be found in London town.

On Sundays, Mrs. Hoggarty used to go to Saint Pancras Church, then just built, and as handsome as Covent Garden Theatre; and of evenings to a meeting-house of the Anabaptists; and *that* day, at least, Mary and I had to ourselves,—for we chose to have seats at the Foundling, and heard the charming music there, and my wife used to look wistfully in the pretty children's faces,—and so, for the matter of that, did I. It was not, however, till a year after our marriage that she spoke in a way which shall be here passed over, but which filled both her and me with inexpressible joy.

I remember she had the news to give me on the very day when the Muff and Tippet Company shut up, after swallowing a capital of 300,000*l.* as some said, and nothing to show for it except a treaty with some Indians, who had afterwards tomahawked the agent of the Company. Some people said there were no Indians, and no agent to be tomahawked at all; but that the whole had been invented in a house in Crutched Friars. Well, I pitied poor Tidd, whose 20,000*l.* were thus gone in a year, and whom I met in the City that day with a most ghastly face. He had 1000*l.* of debts, he said, and talked of shooting himself; but he was only arrested, and passed a long time in the Fleet. Mary's delightful news,

however, soon put Tidd and the Muff and Tippet Company out of my head, as you may fancy.

Other circumstances now occurred in the city of London which seemed to show that our director was — what is not to be found in Johnson's *Dictionary* — rather shaky. Three of his companies had broken; four more were in a notoriously insolvent state; and even at the meetings of the directors of the West Diddlesex, some stormy words passed, which ended in the retirement of several of the board. Friends of Mr. B.'s filled up their places: Mr. Puppet, Mr. Straw, Mr. Query, and other respectable gents, coming forward and joining the concern. Brough and Hoff dissolved partnership; and Mr. B. said he had quite enough to do to manage the I. W. D., and intended gradually to retire from the other affairs. Indeed, such an association as ours was enough work for any man, let alone the parliamentary duties which Brough was called on to perform, and the seventy-two law-suits which burst upon him as principal director of the late companies.

Perhaps I should here describe the desperate attempts made by Mrs. Hoggarty to introduce herself into genteel life. Strange to say, although we had my Lord Tiptoff's word to the contrary, she insisted upon it that she and Lady Drum were intimately related; and no sooner did she read in the *Morning Post* of the arrival of her ladyship and her grand-daughters in London, than she ordered the fly, before mentioned, and left cards at their respective houses. Her card — that is, "Mrs. HOGGARTY, OF CASTLE HOGGARTY," magnificently engraved in Gothic letters and flourishes; and ours — viz. "Mr. and Mrs. S. Titmarsh," which she had printed for the purpose.

She would have stormed Lady Jane Preston's door, and forced her way up-stairs in spite of Mary's entreaties to the contrary, had the footman, who received her card, given her the least encouragement; but that functionary, no doubt struck by the oddity of her appearance, placed himself in the front of the door, and declared that he had positive orders not to admit any strangers to his lady. On which Mrs.

Hoggarty clenched her fist out of the coach-window, and promised that she would have him turned away.

Yellowplush only burst out laughing at this; and though aunt wrote a most indignant letter to Mr. Edward Preston, complaining of the insolence of the servants of that right honourable gent, Mr. Preston did not take any notice of her letter, further than to return it, with a desire that he might not be troubled with such impertinent visits for the future. A pretty day we had of it when this letter arrived, owing to my aunt's disappointment and rage in reading the contents; for when Solomon brought up the note on the silver tea-tray as usual, my aunt seeing Mr. Preston's seal and name at the corner of the letter (which is the common way of writing adopted by those official gents) — my aunt, I say, seeing his name and seal, cried, "*Now*, Mary, who is right?" and betted my wife a sixpence that the envelope contained an invitation to dinner. She never paid the sixpence though she lost, but contented herself by abusing Mary all day, and said I was a poor-spirited sneak for not instantly horse-whipping Mr. P. A pretty joke, indeed! They would have hanged me in those days, as they did the man who shot Mr. Perceval.

And now I should be glad to enlarge upon that experience in genteel life which I obtained through the perseverance of Mrs. Hoggarty; but it must be owned that my opportunities were but few, lasting only for the brief period of six months; and, also, genteel society has been fully described already by various authors of novels, whose names need not here be set down, but who, being themselves connected with the aristocracy — viz. as members of noble families, or as footmen or hangers-on thereof, naturally understand their subject a great deal better than a poor young fellow from a fire-office can.

There was our celebrated adventure in the Opera House, whither Mrs. H. would insist upon conducting us; and where, in a room of the establishment called the crush-room, where the ladies and gents after the music and dancing await the

arrival of their carriages (a pretty figure did our little Solomon cut by the way, with his big cane among the gentlemen of the shoulder-knot assembled in the lobby!) — when, I say, in the crush-room, Mrs. H. rushed up to old Lady Drum, whom I pointed out to her, and insisted upon claiming relationship with her ladyship. But my Lady Drum had only a memory when she chose, as I may say, and had entirely on this occasion thought fit to forget her connexion with the Titmarshes and the Hoggartys. Far from recognising us, indeed, she called Mrs. Hoggarty an “ojus ’oman,” and screamed out as loud as possible for a police-officer.

This and other rebuffs made my aunt perceive the vanities of this wicked world, as she said, and threw her more and more into really serious society. She formed several very valuable acquaintances, she said, at the Independent Chapel; and among others, lighted upon her friend of the Rookery, Mr. Grimes Wapshot. We did not know then the interview which he had with Mr. Smithers, nor did Grimes think proper to acquaint us with the particulars of it; but though I did acquaint Mrs. H. with the fact, that her favourite preacher had been tried for forgery, *she* replied that she considered the story an atrocious calumny; and *he* answered by saying that Mary and I were in lamentable darkness, and that we should infallibly find the way to a certain bottomless pit, of which he seemed to know a great deal. Under the reverend gentleman’s guidance and advice, she, after a time, separated from Saint Pancras altogether — “*sat under him*,” as the phrase is, regularly thrice a week — began to labour in the conversion of the poor of Bloomsbury and St. Giles’s, and made a deal of baby-linen for distribution among those benighted people. She did not make any, however, for Mrs. Sam Titmarsh, who now showed signs that such would be speedily necessary, but let Mary (and my mother and sisters in Somersetshire) provide what was requisite for the coming event. I am not, indeed, sure that she did not say it was wrong on our parts to make any such provision, and that we ought to let the morrow provide for itself. At any rate the Rev. Grimes Wapshot drank

a deal of brandy-and-water at our house, and dined there even oftener than poor Gus used to do.

But I had little leisure to attend to him and his doings, for I must confess at this time I was growing very embarrassed in my circumstances, and was much harassed both as a private and public character.

As regards the former, Mrs. Hoggarty had given me 50*l.*; but out of that 50*l.* I had to pay a journey post from Somersetshire, all the carriage of her goods from the country, the painting, papering, and carpeting of my house, the brandy and strong liquors drunk by the Rev. Grimes and his friends (for the reverend gent said that Rosolio did not agree with him); and, finally, a thousand small bills and expenses incident to all house-keepers in the town of London.

Add to this, I received just at the time when I was most in want of cash, Madame Mantalini's bill, Messrs. Howell and James's ditto, the account of Baron Von Stiltz, and the bill of Mr. Polonius for the setting of the diamond-pin. All these bills arrived in a week, as they have a knack of doing; and fancy my astonishment in presenting them to Mrs. Hoggarty, when she said, "Well, my dear, you are in the receipt of a very fine income. If you choose to order dresses and jewels from first-rate shops, you must pay for them; and don't expect that *I* am to abet your extravagance, or give you a shilling more than the munificent sum I pay you for board and lodging!"

How could I tell Mary of this behaviour of Mrs. Hoggarty, and Mary in such a delicate condition? And bad as matters were at home, I am sorry to say at the office they began to look still worse.

Not only did Roundhand leave, but Highmore went away. Abednego became head clerk: and one day old Abednego came to the place, and was shown into the director's private room; when he left it, he came trembling, chattering, and cursing down stairs; and had began, "Shentlemen—" a speech to the very clerks in the office; when Mr. Brough,

with an imploring look, and crying out, "Stop till Saturday!" at length got him into the street.

On Saturday Abednego, junior, left the office for ever, and I became head clerk with 400*l.* a-year salary. It was a fatal week for the office, too. On Monday when I arrived and took my seat at the head desk, and my first read of the newspaper, as was my right, the first thing I read was, "Frightful fire in Houndsditch! Total destruction of Mr. Meshach's sealing-wax manufactory; and of Mr. Shadrach's, adjoining, clothing depôt. In the former was 20,000*l.* worth of the finest Dutch wax, which the voracious element attacked and devoured in a twinkling. The latter estimable gentleman had just completed 40,000 suits of clothes for the cavalry of H. H. the Cacique of Poyais."

Both of these Jewish gents, who were connexions of Mr. Abednego, were insured in our office to the full amount of their loss. The calamity was attributed to the drunkenness of a scoundrelly Irish watchman, who was employed on the premises, and who upset a bottle of whisky in the warehouse of Messrs. Shadrach, and incautiously looked for the liquor with a lighted candle. The man was brought to our office by his employers; and certainly, as we all could testify, was *even then* in a state of frightful intoxication.

As if this were not sufficient, in the obituary was announced the demise of Alderman Pash — Aldermany Cally-Pash, we used to call him in our lighter hours, knowing his propensity to green fat; but such a moment as this was no time for joking! He was insured by our house for 5000*l.* And now I saw very well the truth of a remark of Gus's — viz. that life-insurance companies go on excellently for a year or two after their establishment, but that it is much more difficult to make them profitable when the assured parties begin to die.

The Jewish fires were the heaviest blows we had had; for though the Waddingley Cotton-mills had been burnt in 1822, at a loss to the Company of 80,000*l.*, and though the Patent Erostratus Match Manufactory had exploded in the

same year at a charge of 14,000*l.*, there were those who said that the loss had not been near so heavy as was supposed — nay, that the Company had burnt the above-named establishments as advertisements for themselves. Of these facts I can't be positive, having never seen the early accounts of the concern.

Contrary to the expectation of all us gents, who were ourselves as dismal as mutes, Mr. Brough came to the office in his coach-and-four, laughing and joking with a friend as he stepped out at the door.

"Gentlemen!" said he, "you have read the papers; they announce an event which I most deeply deplore. I mean the demise of the excellent Alderman Pash, one of our constituents. But if anything can console me for the loss of that worthy man, it is to think that his children and widow will receive, at eleven o'clock next Saturday, 5000*l.* from my friend, Mr. Titmarsh, who is now head clerk here. As for the accident which has happened to Messrs. Shadrach and Meshach, — in *that*, at least, there is nothing that can occasion any person sorrow. On Saturday next, or as soon as the particulars of their loss can be satisfactorily ascertained, my friend, Mr. Titmarsh, will pay to them across the counter a sum of forty, fifty, eighty, one hundred thousand pounds — according to the amount of their loss. *They*, at least, will be remunerated; and though to our proprietors the outlay will no doubt be considerable, yet we can afford it, gentlemen. John Brough can afford it himself, for the matter of that, and not be very much embarrassed; and we must learn to bear ill fortune as we have hitherto borne good, and show ourselves to be men always!"

Mr. B. concluded with some allusions, which I confess I don't like to give here; for to speak of Heaven in connexion with common worldly matters, has always appeared to me irreverent; and to bring it to bear witness to the lie in his mouth, as a religious hypocrite does, is such a frightful crime, that one should be careful even in alluding to it.

Mr. Brough's speech somehow found its way into the newspapers of that very evening; nor can I think who gave a report of it, for none of our gents left the office that day until the evening papers had appeared. But there was the speech — ay, and at the week's end, although Roundhand was heard on 'Change that day declaring he would bet five to one that Alderman Pash's money would never be paid, — at the week's end, the money was paid by me to Mrs. Pash's solicitor across the counter, and no doubt Roundhand lost his money.

Shall I tell how the money was procured? There can be no harm in mentioning the matter now after twenty years' lapse of time; and, moreover, it is greatly to the credit of two individuals now dead.

As I was head clerk, I had occasion to be frequently in Brough's room, and he now seemed once more disposed to take me into his confidence.

"Titmarsh, my boy," said he, one day to me, after looking me hard in the face, "did you ever hear of the fate of the great Mr. Silberschmidt of London?" Of course I had. Mr. Silberschmidt, the Rothschild of his day (indeed I have heard the latter famous gent was originally a clerk in Silberschmidt's house)—Silberschmidt, fancying he could not meet his engagements, committed suicide; and had he lived till four o'clock that day, would have known that he was worth 400,000*l.* "To tell you frankly the truth," says Mr. B., "I am in Silberschmidt's case. My late partner, Hoff, has given bills in the name of the firm to an enormous amount, and I have been obliged to meet them. I have been cast in fourteen actions, brought by creditors of that infernal Ginger-beer Company; and all the debts are put upon my shoulders, on account of my known wealth. Now, unless I have time, I cannot pay; and the long and short of the matter is, that if I cannot procure 5000*l.* before Saturday, *our concern is ruined!*"

"What! the West Diddlesex ruined?" says I, thinking of my poor mother's annuity. "Impossible! our business is splendid!"

"We must have 5000*l.* on Saturday, and we are saved; and if you will, as you can, get it for me, I will give you 10,000*l.* for the money!"

B. then showed me to a fraction the accounts of the concern, and his own private account; proving beyond the possibility of a doubt, that with the 5000*l.* our office must be set a-going; and without it, that the concern must stop. No matter how he proved the thing; but there is, you know, a dictum of a statesman, that give him but leave to use figures, and he will prove anything.

I promised to ask Mrs. Hoggarty once more for the money, and she seemed not to be disinclined. I told him so; and that day he called upon her, his wife called upon her, his daughter called upon her, and once more the Brough carriage-and-four was seen at our house.

But Mrs. Brough was a bad manager; and instead of carrying matters with a high hand, fairly burst into tears before Mrs. Hoggarty, and went down on her knees and besought her to save dear John. This at once aroused my aunt's suspicions; and instead of lending the money, she wrote off to Mr. Smithers instantly to come up to her, desired me to give her up the 3000*l.* scrip shares that I possessed, called me an atrocious cheat and heartless swindler, and vowed I had been the cause of her ruin.

How was Mr. Brough to get the money? I will tell you. Being in his room one day, old Gates, the Fulham porter, came and brought him from Mr. Balls, the pawnbroker, a sum of 1200*l.* Missus told him, he said, to carry the plate to Mr. Balls; and having paid the money, old Gates fumbled a great deal in his pockets, and at last pulled out a 5*l.* note, which he said his daughter Jane had just sent him from service, and begged Mr. B. would let him have another share in the Company. "He was mortal sure it would go right yet. And when he heard master crying and cursing as he and missus were walking in the scrubbery, and saying that for the want of a few pounds—a few shillings—the finest fortune in Europe was to be overthrown, why Gates and his woman thought that they

should come for'ard, to be sure, with all they could, to help the kindest master and missus ever was."

This was the substance of Gates's speech; and Mr. Brough shook his hand and — took the 5*l*. "Gates," said he, "that 5*l*. note shall be the best outlay you ever made in your life!" and I have no doubt it was, but it was in Heaven that poor old Gates was to get the interest of his little mite.

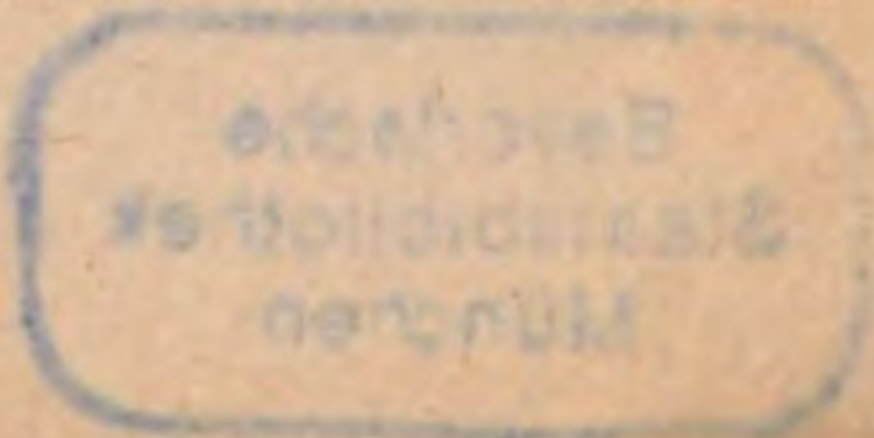
Nor was this the only instance. Mrs. Brough's sister, Miss Dough, who had been on bad terms with the Director almost ever since he had risen to be a great man, came to the office with a power of attorney, and said, "John, Isabella has been with me this morning, and says you want money and I have brought you my 4000*l*.; it is all I have, John, and pray God it may do you good — you and my dear sister, who was the best sister in the world to me — till — till a little time ago."

And she laid down the paper, and I was called up to witness it; and Brough, with tears in his eyes, told me her words; for he could trust me, he said. And thus it was that I came to be present at Gates's interview with his master, which took place only an hour afterwards. Brave Mrs. Brough! how she was working for her husband! Good woman, and kind! but *you* had a true heart, and merited a better fate! Though wherefore say so? The woman, to this day, thinks her husband an angel, and loves him a thousand times better for his misfortunes.

On Saturday Alderman Pash's solicitor was paid by me across the counter, as I said. "Never mind your aunt's money, Titmarsh, my boy, — never mind her having resumed her shares; you are a true honest fellow; you have never abused me like that pack of curs down-stairs, and I'll make your fortune yet!"

* * * * *

The next week as I was sitting with my wife, with Mr. Smithers, and with Mrs. Hoggarty, taking our tea comfortably, a knock was heard at the door, and a gentleman desired to speak to me in the parlour. It was Mr. Aminadab of Chancery Lane, who arrested me as a share-holder of the Inde-



pendent West Diddlesex Association, at the suit of Von Stiltz of Conduit Street, Tailor and Draper.

I called down Smithers, and told him for Heaven's sake not to tell Mary.

"Where is Brough?" says Mr. Smithers.

"Why," says Mr. Aminadab, "he's once more of the firm of Brough and Off, Sir — he breakfasted at Calais this morning!"

CHAPTER XI.

In which it appears that a man may possess a diamond and yet be very hard pressed for a dinner.

ON that fatal Saturday evening, in a hackney-coach, fetched from the Foundling, was I taken from my comfortable house and my dear little wife, whom Mr. Smithers was left to console as he might. He said that I was compelled to take a journey upon business connected with the office: and my poor Mary made up a little portmanteau of clothes, and tied a comforter round my neck, and bade my companion particularly to keep the coach-windows shut, which injunction the grinning wretch promised to obey. Our journey was not long; it was only a shilling fare to Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, and there I was set down.

The house before which the coach stopped seemed to be only one of half-a-dozen in that street, which were used for the same purpose. No man, be he ever so rich, can pass by those dismal houses, I think, without a shudder. The front windows are barred, and on the dingy pillar of the door was a shining brass plate, setting forth that "Aminadab, Officer to the Sheriff of Middlesex," lived therein. A little red-haired Israelite opened the first door as our coach drove up, and received me and my baggage.

As soon as we entered the door, he barred it, and I found myself in the face of another huge door, which was strongly locked; and, at last, passing through that, we entered the lobby of the house.

There is no need to describe it. It is very like ten thousand other houses in our dark city of London. There was a dirty passage and a dirty stair, and from the passage two dirty doors let into two filthy rooms, which had strong bars at the windows, and yet withal an air of horrible finery that makes me uncomfortable to think of even yet. On the walls hung all sorts of trumpery pictures in tawdry frames (how different from those capital performance of my cousin Michael Angelo!); on the mantelpiece, huge French clocks, vases, and candlesticks; on the side-boards, enormous trays of Birmingham plated-ware; for Mr. Aminadab not only arrested those who could not pay money, but lent it to those who could; and had already, in the way of trade, sold and bought these articles many times over.

I agreed to take the back-parlour for the night, and while a Hebrew damsel was arranging a little dusky sofa-bedstead (woe betide him who has to sleep on it!) I was invited into the front parlour, where Mr. Aminadab, bidding me take heart, told me I should have a dinner for nothing, with a party who had just arrived. I did not want for dinner, but I was glad not to be alone — not alone, even till Gus came, for whom I despatched a messenger to his lodgings hard by.

I found there, in the front parlour, at eight o'clock in the evening, four gentlemen, just about to sit down to dinner. Surprising! there was Mr. B., a gentleman of fashion, who had only within half-an-hour arrived in a post-chaise, with his companion Mr. Lock, an officer of Horsham gaol. Mr. B. was arrested in this wise: — He was a careless, good-humoured gentleman, and had indorsed bills to a large amount for a friend, who, a man of high family and unquestionable honour, had pledged the latter, along with a number of the most solemn oaths, for the payment of the bills in question. Having indorsed the notes, young Mr. B., with a proper thoughtlessness, forgot all about them, and so, by some chance, did the friend whom he obliged; for, instead of being in London with the money for the payment of his obligations, this latter gentleman was travelling abroad, and never hinted one word to Mr. B.

that the notes would fall upon him. The young gentleman was at Brighton lying sick of a fever; was taken from his bed by a bailiff, and carried, on a rainy day, to Horsham gaol; had a relapse of his complaint, and when sufficiently recovered, was brought up to London to the house of Mr. Aminadab, where I found him — a pale, thin, good-humoured, *lost* young man; he was lying on a sofa, and had given orders for the dinner, to which I was invited. The lad's face gave one pain to look at; it was impossible not to see that his hours were numbered.

Now Mr. B. has not anything to do with my humble story; but I can't help mentioning him as I saw him. He sent for his lawyer and his doctor; the former settled speedily his accounts with the bailiff, and the latter arranged all his earthly accounts; for after he went from the spunging-house he never recovered from the shock of the arrest, and in a few weeks he *died*. And though this circumstance took place many years ago, I can't forget it to my dying day, and often see the author of Mr. B.'s death, — a prosperous gentleman, riding a fine horse in the Park, lounging at the window of a club with many friends no doubt, and a good reputation. I wonder whether the man sleeps easily and eats with a good appetite? I wonder whether he has paid Mr. B.'s heirs the sum which that gentleman paid and *died for*?

If Mr. B.'s history has nothing to do with mine, and is only inserted here for the sake of a moral, what business have I to mention particulars of the dinner to which I was treated by that gentleman, in the spunging-house in Cursitor Street? Why for the moral too; and therefore, the public must be told of what really and truly that dinner consisted.

There were five guests, and three silver tureens of soup: viz. mock-turtle soup, ox-tail soup, and giblet-soup. Next came a great piece of salmon, likewise on a silver dish, a roast goose, a roast saddle of mutton, roast game, and all sorts of adjuncts. In this way can a gentleman live in a spunging-house if he be inclined, and over this repast (which, in truth, I could not touch, for, let alone having dined, my heart was full of care)

—over this meal my friend Gus Hoskins found me, when he received the letter that I had dispatched to him.

Gus, who had never been in a prison before, and whose heart failed him as the red-headed young Moses opened and shut for him the numerous iron outer doors, was struck dumb to see me behind a bottle of claret, in a room blazing with gilt lamps; the curtains were down too, and you could not see the bars at the windows; and Mr. B., Mr. Lock the Brighton officer, Mr. Aminadab, and another rich gentleman of his trade and religious persuasion, were chirping as merrily and looked as respectably as any noblemen in the land.

"Have him in," said Mr. B., "if he's a friend of Mr. Titmarsh's; for, cuss me, I like to see a rogue: and run me through, Titmarsh, but I think you are one of the best in London. You beat Brough; you do, by Jove! for he looks like a rogue—any body would swear to him: but you! by Jove you look the very picture of honesty!"

"A deep file," said Aminadab, winking and pointing me out to his friend Mr. Jehoshaphat.

"A good one," says Jehoshaphat.

"In for three hundred thousand pound," says Aminadab; "Brough's right-hand man, and only three-and-twenty."

"Mr. Titmarsh, Sir, your 'ealth, Sir," says Mr. Lock, in an ecstasy of admiration. "Your very good 'ealth, Sir, and better luck to you next time."

"Pooh, pooh! *he's* all right," says Aminadab; "let *him* alone."

"In for *what*?" shouted I, quite amazed. "Why, Sir, you arrested me for 90*l.*"

"Yes, but you're in for half a million,—you know you are—*Them* debts I don't count — them paltry tradesmen's accounts. I mean Brough's business. It's an ugly one; but you'll get through it. We all know you; and I lay my life that when you come through the court, Mrs. Titmarsh has got a handsome thing laid by."

"Mrs. Titmarsh has a small property, Sir," says I. "What then?"

The three gentlemen burst into a loud laugh, said I was a "rum chap" — a "downy cove," and made other remarks which I could not understand then; but the meaning of which I have since comprehended, for they took me to be a great rascal I am sorry to say, and supposed that I had robbed the I. W. D. Association, and, in order to make my money secure, settled it on my wife.

It was in the midst of this conversation that, as I said, Gus came in; and whew! when he saw what was going on, he gave *such* a whistle!

"Herr Von Joel, by Jove!" says Aminadab. At which all laughed.

"Sit down," says Mr. B., — "sit down, and wet your whistle, my piper! I say, egad! you're the piper that plays before Moses! Had you there, Dab. Dab, get a fresh bottle of burgundy for Mr. Hoskins." And before he knew where he was, there was Gus for the first time in his life drinking Clot-Vougeot. Gus said he had never tasted Bergamy before, at which the bailiff sneered, and told him the name of the wine.

"*Old-clo!* What?" says Gus; and we laughed, but the Hebrew gents did not this time.

"Come, come, Sir!" says Mr. Aminadab's friend, "ve're all shentlemen here, and shentlemen never makish reflexunsh upon other shentlemensh pershuashunsh."

After this feast was concluded, Gus and I retired to my room to consult about my affairs. With regard to the responsibility incurred as a shareholder in the West Diddlesex, I was not uneasy; for though the matter might cause me a little trouble at first, I knew I was not a shareholder; that the shares were scrip shares, making the dividend payable to the bearer; and my aunt had called back her shares, and consequently I was free. But it was very unpleasant to me to consider that I was in debt nearly a hundred pounds to tradesmen, chiefly of Mrs. Hoggarty's recommendation; and as she had promised to be answerable for their bills, I determined to send her a letter, reminding her of her promise, and begging her at the same

time to relieve me from Mr. Von Stiltz's debt, for which I was arrested, and which was incurred not certainly at her desire, but at Mr. Brough's; and would never have been incurred by me, but at the absolute demand of that gentleman.

I wrote to her, therefore, begging her to pay all these debts, and promised myself on Monday morning again to be with my dear wife. Gus carried off the letter, and promised to deliver it in Bernard Street after church-time, taking care that Mary should know nothing at all of the painful situation in which I was placed. It was near midnight when we parted, and I tried to sleep as well as I could in the dirty little sofa-bedstead of Mr. Aminadab's back-parlour.

That morning was fine and sun-shiny, and I heard all the bells ringing cheerfully for church, and longed to be walking to the Foundling with my wife; but there were the three iron doors between me and liberty, and I had nothing for it but to read my prayers in my own room, and walk up and down afterwards in the court at the back of the house. Would you believe it? This very court was like a cage! Great iron bars covered it in from one end to another; and here it was that Mr. Aminadab's gaol-birds took the air.

They had seen me reading out of the prayer-book at the back-parlour window, and all burst into a yell of laughter when I came to walk in the cage. One of them shouted out "Amen!" when I appeared; another called me a muff (which means, in the slang language, a very silly fellow); a third wondered that I took to my prayer-book *yet*.

"When do you mean, Sir?" says I to the fellow — a rough man, a horsedealer.

"Why, when you are going *to be hanged*, you young hypocrite!" says the man. "But that is always the way with Brough's people," continued he. "I had four greys once for him — a great bargain, but he would not go to look at them at Tattersall's, nor speak a word of business about them, because it was a Sunday."

"Because there are hypocrites, Sir," says I, "religion is not

to be considered a bad thing; and if Mr. Brough would not deal with you on a Sunday, he certainly did his duty."

The men only laughed the more at this rebuke, and evidently considered me a great criminal. I was glad to be released from their society, by the appearance of Gus and Mr. Smithers. Both wore very long faces. They were ushered into my room, and, without any orders of mine, a bottle of wine and biscuits were brought in by Mr. Aminadab, which I really thought was very kind of him.

"Drink a glass of wine, Mr. Titmarsh," says Smithers, "and read this letter. A pretty note was that which you sent to your aunt this morning, and here you have an answer to it."

I drank the wine, and trembled rather as I read as follows:—

SIR,

If, because you knew I had desined to leave you my property, you wished to murdar me, and so stepp into it, you are dissappointed. Your *villiany* and *ingratatude* would have murdared me, had I not, by Heaven's grace, been inabled to look for consalation *elsewhere*.

For nearly a year I have been a *martar* to you. I gave up everything, — my happy home in the country, where all respected the name of Hoggarty; my valuble furnitur and wines; my plate, glass, and crockry; I brought all — all to make your home happy and rispectable. I put up with the *airs and impertanencies* of Mrs. Titmarsh; I loaded her and you with presents and bennafits. I sacrafised myself; I gave up the best sociaty in the land, to witch I have been accustomed, in order to be a gardian and compannion to you, and prevent, if possable, that *waist and ixtravygance* which I *prophycied* would be your ruin. Such waist and ixtravygance never, never, never did I see. Buttar waisted as if it had been dirt, coles flung away, candles burnt *at both ends*, tea and meat the same. The butcher's bill in this house was enough to support six famalies.

And now you have the audassaty, being placed in prison justly for your crimes, — for cheating me of 3000*l.*, for robbing your mother of an insignificent summ, which to her, poor thing, was everything (though she will not feel her loss as I do, being all her life next door to a beggar), for incurring detts which you cannot pay, wherein you knew that your miserable income was quite unable to support your ixtravygance — you come upon me to pay your detts! No, Sir, it is quite enough that your mother should go on the parish, and that your wife should sweep the streets to which you have indeed brought them; I, at

least, though cheated by you of a large summ, and obliged to pass my days in comparative ruin, can retire, and have some of the comforts to which my rank entitles me. The furnitur in this house is mine; and as I presume you intend *your lady* to sleep in the streets, I give you warning that I shall remove it all to-morrow.

Mr. Smithers will tell you that I had intended to leave you my intire fortune. I have this morning, in his presents, solamly toar up my will; and hereby renounce all connection with you and your beggarly family.

SUSAN HOGGARTY.

P. S. I took a viper into my bosom, *and it stung me.*

I confess that, on the first reading of this letter, I was in such a fury, that I forgot almost the painful situation in which it plunged me, and the ruin hanging over me.

"What a fool you were, Titmarsh, to write that letter!" said Mr. Smithers. "You have cut your own throat, Sir, — lost a fine property, — written yourself out of five hundred a-year. Mrs. Hoggarty, my client, brought the will, as she says, down-stairs, and flung it into the fire before our faces."

"It's a blessing that your wife was from home," added Gus. "She went to church this morning with Dr. Salts' family, and sent word that she would spend the day with them. She was always glad to be away from Mrs. H., you know."

"She never knew on which side her bread was buttered," said Mr. Smithers. "You should have taken the lady when she was in the humour, Sir, and have borrowed the money elsewhere. Why, Sir, I had almost reconciled her to her loss in that cursed Company. I showed her how I had saved out of Brough's claws the whole of her remaining fortune, which he would have devoured in a day, the scoundrel! And if you would have left the matter to me, Mr. Titmarsh, I would have had you reconciled completely to Mrs. Hoggarty; I would have removed all your difficulties; I would have lent you the pitiful sum of money myself."

"Will you?" says Gus; "that's a trump!" and he seized Smithers's hand, and squeezed it so that the tears came into the attorney's eyes.

"Generous fellow!" said I; "lend me money, when you know in what a situation I am in, and not able to pay!"

"Ay, my good Sir, there's the rub!" says Mr. Smithers. "I said I *would* have lent the money; and so to the acknowledged heir of Mrs. Hoggarty I would — would at this moment; for nothing delights the heart of Bob Smithers more than to do a kindness. I would have rejoiced in doing it; and a mere acknowledgment from that respected lady would have amply sufficed. But now, Sir, the case is altered, — you have no security to offer, as you justly observe."

"Not a whit, certainly."

"And without security, Sir, of course can expect no money — of course not. You are a man of the world, Mr. Titmarsh, and I see our notions exactly agree."

"There's his wife's property," says Gus.

"Wife's property? Bah! Mrs. Sam Titmarsh is a minor, and can't touch a shilling of it. No, no, no meddling with minors for me! But stop! — your mother has a house and shop in our village. Get me a mortgage of that —"

"I'll do no such thing, Sir," says I. "My mother has suffered quite enough on my score already, and has my sisters to provide for; and I will thank you, Mr. Smithers, not to breathe a syllable to her regarding my present situation."

"You speak like a man of honour, Sir," says Mr. Smithers, "and I will obey your injunctions to the letter. I will do more, Sir. I will introduce you to a respectable firm here, my worthy friends, Messrs. Higgs, Biggs, and Blatherwick, who will do everything in their power to serve you. And so, Sir, I wish you a very good morning."

And with this Mr. Smithers took his hat and left the room; and after a further consultation with my aunt, as I heard afterwards, quitted London that evening by the mail.

I sent my faithful Gus off once more to break the matter gently to my wife, fearing lest Mrs. Hoggarty should speak of it abruptly to her, as I knew in her anger she would do.

But he came in an hour panting back, to say that Mrs. H. had packed and locked her trunks, and had gone off in a hackney-coach. So knowing that my poor Mary was not to return till night, Hoskins remained with me till then; and, after a dismal day, left me once more at nine, to carry the dismal tidings to her.

At ten o'clock on that night there was a great rattling and ringing at the outer door, and presently my poor girl fell into my arms; and Gus Hoskins sat blubbering in a corner, as I tried my best to console her.

* * * * *

The next morning I was favoured with a visit from Mr. Blatherwick, who, hearing from me that I had only three guineas in my pocket, told me very plainly that lawyers only lived by fees. He recommended me to quit Cursitor Street, as living there was very expensive. And as I was sitting very sad, my wife made her appearance (it was with great difficulty that she could be brought to leave me the night previous), —

“The horrible men came at four this morning,” said she, “four hours before light.”

“What horrible men?” says I.

“Your aunt’s men,” said she, “to remove the furniture; they had it all packed before I came away. And I let them carry all,” said she: “I was too sad to look what was ours and what was not. That odious Mr. Wapshot was with them; and I left him seeing the last waggon-load from the door. I have only brought away your clothes,” added she, “and a few of mine: and some of the books you used to like to read, and some — some things I have been getting for the — for the baby. The servants’ wages were paid up to Christmas; and I paid them the rest. And see! just as I was going away, the post came, and brought to me my half-year’s income — 35 *l.*, dear Sam. Isn’t it a blessing?”

“Will you pay my bill, Mr. Whatdyecall’em?” here cried Mr. Aminadab, flinging open the door (he had been consulting with Mr. Blatherwick, I suppose) — “I want the

room for a gentleman. I guess it's too dear for the like of you." And here — will you believe it? — the man handed me a bill of three guineas for two days' board and lodging in his odious house.

* * * *

There was a crowd of idlers round the door as I passed out of it; and had I been alone I should have been ashamed of seeing them; but, as it was, I was only thinking of my dear, dear wife, who was leaning trustfully on my arm, and smiling like heaven into my face — ay, and *took* heaven, too, into the Fleet prison with me — or an angel out of heaven. Ah! I had loved her before, and happy it is to love when one is hopeful and young in the midst of smiles and sunshine; but be *unhappy*, and then see what it is to be loved by a good woman! I declare before Heaven, that of all the joys and happy moments it has given me, that was the crowning one — that little ride, with my wife's cheek on my shoulder, down Holborn to the prison! Do you think I cared for the bailiff that sat opposite? No, by the Lord! I kissed her, and hugged her — yes, and cried with her likewise. But before our ride was over her eyes dried up, and she stepped blushing and happy out of the coach at the prison-door, as if she were a princess going to the Queen's drawing-room.

CHAPTER XII.

In which the hero's aunt's diamond makes acquaintance with the hero's uncle.

THE failure of the great Diddlesex Association speedily became the theme of all the newspapers, and every person concerned in it was soon held up to public abhorrence as a rascal and a swindler. It was said that Brough had gone off with a million of money. Even it was hinted that poor I had sent a hundred thousand pounds to America, and only waited to pass through the court in order to be a rich man

for the rest of my days. This opinion had some supporters in the prison, where, strange to say, it procured me consideration — of which, as may be supposed, I was little inclined to avail myself. Mr. Aminadab, however, in his frequent visits to the Fleet, persisted in saying that I was a poor-spirited creature, a mere tool in Brough's hands, and had not saved a shilling. Opinions, however, differed; and I believe it was considered by the turnkeys that I was a fellow of exquisite dissimulation, who had put on the appearance of poverty in order more effectually to mislead the public.

Messrs. Abednego and Son were similarly held up to public odium; and, in fact, what were the exact dealings of these gentlemen with Mr. Brough I have never been able to learn. It was proved by the books that large sums of money had been paid to Mr. Abednego by the Company; but he produced documents signed by Mr. Brough, which made the latter and the West Diddlesex Association his debtors to a still further amount. On the day I went to the Bankruptcy Court to be examined, Mr. Abednego and the two gentlemen from Houndsditch were present to swear to their debts, and made a sad noise, and uttered a vast number of oaths in attestation of their claim. But Messrs. Jackson and Paxon produced against them that very Irish porter who was said to have been the cause of the fire, and I am told hinted that they had matter for hanging the Jewish gents if they persisted in their demand. On this they disappeared altogether, and no more was ever heard of their losses. I am inclined to believe that our director had had money from Abednego — had given him shares as bonus and security — had been suddenly obliged to redeem these shares with ready money; and so had precipitated the ruin of himself and the concern. It is needless to say here in what a multiplicity of companies Brough was engaged. That in which poor Mr. Tidd invested his money did not pay 2*d.* in the pound; and that was the largest dividend paid by any of them.

As for ours — ah! there was a pretty scene as I was brought from the Fleet to the Bankruptcy Court, to give my testimony as late head clerk and accountant of the West Diddlesex Association.

My poor wife, then very near her time, insisted upon accompanying me to Basinghall Street; and so did my dear friend Gus Hoskins, that true and honest fellow. If you had seen the crowd that was assembled, and the hubbub that was made as I was brought up!

“Mr. Titmarsh,” says the commissioner as I came to the table, with a peculiar sarcastic accent on the Tit — “Mr. Titmarsh, you were the confidant of Mr. Brough, the principal clerk of Mr. Brough, and a considerable shareholder in the Company?”

“Only a nominal one, Sir,” said I.

“Of course, only nominal,” continued the commissioner, turning to his colleague with a sneer; “and a great comfort it must be to you, Sir, to think that you had a share in all the plan — the profits of the speculation, and now can free yourself from the losses by saying you are only a nominal shareholder.”

“The infernal villain!” shouted out a voice from the crowd. It was that of the furious half-pay captain and late shareholder, Captain Sparr.

“Silence in the court there!” the commissioner continued: and all this while Mary was anxiously looking in his face, and then in mine, as pale as death; while Gus, on the contrary, was as red as vermilion. “Mr. Titmarsh, I have had the good fortune to see a list of your debts from the Insolvent Court, and find that you are indebted to Mr. Stiltz, the great tailor, in a handsome sum; to Mr. Polonius, the celebrated jeweller, likewise; to fashionable milliners and dress-makers, moreover; — and all this upon a salary of 200*l.* per annum. For so young a gentleman, it must be confessed you have employed your time well.”

“Has this anything to do with the question, Sir?” says I. “Am I here to give an account of my private debts, or to

“speak as to what I know regarding the affairs of the Company? As for my share in it, I have a mother, Sir, and many sisters.”

“The d—d scoundrel!” shouts the captain.

“Silence that there fellow!” shouts Gus, as bold as brass; at which the court burst out laughing, and this gave me courage to proceed.

“My mother, Sir, four years since, having a legacy of 400*l.* left to her, advised with her solicitor, Mr. Smithers, how she should dispose of this sum; and as the Independent West Diddlesex was just then established, the money was placed in an annuity in that office, where I procured a clerkship. You may suppose me a very hardened criminal because I have ordered clothes of Mr. Von Stiltz; but you will hardly fancy that I, a lad of nineteen, knew anything of the concerns of the Company into whose service I entered as twentieth clerk, my own mother’s money paying, as it were, for my place. Well, Sir, the interest offered by the Company was so tempting, that a rich relative of mine was induced to purchase a number of shares.”

“*Who* induced your relative, if I may make so bold as to inquire?”

“I can’t help owning, Sir,” says I, blushing, “that I wrote a letter myself. But consider, my relative was sixty years old, and I was twenty-one. My relative took several months to consider, and had the advice of her lawyers before she acceded to my request. And I made it at the instigation of Mr. Brough, who dictated the letter which I wrote, and who I really thought then was as rich as Mr. Rothschild himself.”

“Your friend placed her money in your name; and you, if I mistake not, Mr. Titmarsh, were suddenly placed over the heads of twelve of your fellow-clerks as a reward for your service in obtaining it?”

“It is very true, Sir,” — and, as I confessed it, poor Mary began to wipe her eyes, and Gus’s ears (I could not see his face) looked like two red-hot muffins — “it’s quite true, Sir;

and, as matters have turned out, I am heartily sorry for what I did. But at the time I thought I could serve my aunt as well as myself; and you must remember, then, how high our shares were."

"Well, Sir, having procured this sum of money, you were straightway taken into Mr. Brough's confidence. You were received into his house, and from third clerk speedily became head clerk; in which post you were found at the disappearance of your worthy patron?"

"Sir, you have no right to question me, to be sure; but here are a hundred of our shareholders, and I'm not unwilling to make a clean breast of it," said I, pressing Mary's hand. "I certainly *was* the head clerk. And why? Because the other gents left the office. I certainly was received into Mr. Brough's house. And why? Because, Sir, *my aunt had more money to lay out*. I see it all clearly now, though I could not understand it then; and the proof that Mr. Brough wanted my aunt's money, and not me, is that when she came to town our director carried her by force out of my house to Fulham, and never so much as thought of asking me or my wife thither. Ay, Sir, and he would have had her remaining money, had not her lawyer from the country prevented her disposing of it. Before the concern finally broke, and as soon as she heard there was doubt concerning it, she took back her shares — scrip shares they were, Sir, as you know — and has disposed of them as she thought fit. Here, Sir, and gents," says I, "you have the whole of the history as far as regards me. In order to get her only son a means of livelihood, my mother placed her little money with the Company — it is lost. My aunt invested larger sums with it, which were to have been mine one day, and they are lost too; and here am I, at the end of four years, a disgraced and ruined man. Is there any one present, however much he has suffered by the failure of the Company, that has had worse fortune through it than I?"

"Mr. Titmarsh," says Mr. Commissioner, in a much more friendly way, and at the same time casting a glance at a news-

paper reporter that was sitting hard by, "your story is not likely to get into the newspapers, for, as you say, it is a private affair, which you had no need to speak of unless you thought proper, and may be considered as a confidential conversation between us and the other gentlemen here. But if it *could* be made public, it might do some good, and warn people, if they *will* be warned, against the folly of such enterprises as that in which you have been engaged. It is quite clear from your story that you have been deceived, as grossly as any one of the persons present. But look you, Sir, if you had not been so eager after gain, I think you would not have allowed yourself to be deceived, and would have kept your relative's money, and inherited it, according to your story, one day or other. Directly people expect to make a large interest, their judgment seems to desert them; and because they wish for profit, they think they are sure of it, and disregard all warnings and all prudence. Besides the hundreds of honest families who have been ruined by merely placing confidence in this Association of yours, and who deserve the heartiest pity, there are hundreds more who have embarked in it, like yourself, not for investment, but for speculation; and these, upon my word, deserve the fate they have met with. As long as dividends are paid, no questions are asked; and Mr. Brough might have taken the money for his shareholders on the highroad, and they would have pocketed it, and not been too curious. But what's the use of talking," says Mr. Commissioner, in a passion: "here is one rogue detected, and a thousand dupes made; and if another swindler starts to-morrow, there will be a thousand more of his victims round this table a year hence; and so, I suppose, to the end. And now let's go to business, gentlemen, and excuse this sermon."

After giving an account of all I knew, which was very little, other gents who were employed in the concern were examined; and I went back to prison, with my poor little wife on my arm. We had to pass through the crowd in the rooms, and my heart bled as I saw, amongst a score of others, poor

Gates, Brough's porter, who had advanced every shilling to his master, and was now, with ten children, houseless and penniless in his old age. Captain Sparr was in this neighbourhood, but by no means so friendly disposed; for while Gates touched his hat as if I had been a lord, the little captain came forward threatening with his bamboo-cane, and swearing with great oaths that I was an accomplice of Brough. "Curse you for a smooth-faced scoundrel!" says he. "What business have you to ruin an English gentleman, as you have me?" And again he advanced with his stick. But this time, officer as he was, Gus took him by the collar, and shoved him back, and said, "Look at the lady, you brute, and hold your tongue!" And when he looked at my wife's situation, Captain Sparr became redder for shame than he had before been for anger. I'm sorry she's married to such a good-for-nothing," muttered he, and fell back; and my poor wife and I walked out of the court, and back to our dismal room in the prison.

It was a hard place for a gentle creature like her to be confined in; and I longed to have some of my relatives with her when her time should come. But her grandmother could not leave the old lieutenant; and my mother had written to say that, as Mrs. Hoggarty was with us, she was quite as well at home with her children. "What a blessing it is for you, under your misfortunes," continued the good soul, "to have the generous purse of your aunt for succour!" Generous purse of my aunt indeed! Where could Mrs. Hoggarty be? It was evident that she had not written to any of her friends in the country, nor gone thither, as she threatened.

But as my mother had already lost so much money through my unfortunate luck, and as she had enough to do with her little pittance to keep my sisters at home, and as, on hearing of my condition, she would infallibly have sold her last gown to bring me aid, Mary and I agreed that we would not let her know what our real condition was — bad enough! Heaven knows, and sad and cheerless. Old Lieutenant Smith had likewise nothing but his half-pay and his rheumatism; so we were, in fact, quite friendless.

That period of my life, and that horrible prison, seem to me like recollections of some fever. What an awful place! — not for the sadness, strangely enough, as I thought, but for the gaiety of it; for the long prison galleries were, I remember, full of life and a sort of grave bustle. All day and all night doors were clapping to and fro; and you heard loud voices, oaths, footsteps, and laughter. Next door to our room was one where a man sold gin, under the name of *tape*; and here, from morning till night, the people kept up a horrible revelry; and sang — sad songs some of them, — but my dear little girl was, thank God, unable to understand the most part of their ribaldry. She never used to go out till nightfall; and all day she sat working at a little store of caps and dresses for the expected stranger — and not, she says to this day, unhappy. But the confinement sickened her who had been used to happy country air, and she grew daily paler and paler.

The Fives Court was opposite our window; and here I used, very unwillingly at first, but afterwards I do confess with much eagerness, to take a couple of hours' daily sport. Ah! it was a strange place. There was an aristocracy there as elsewhere, — amongst other gents, a son of my Lord Deuceace; and many of the men in the prison were as eager to walk with him, and talked of his family as knowingly, as if they were Bond-Street bucks. Poor Tidd, especially, was one of these. Of all his fortune he had nothing left but a dressing-case and a flowered dressing-gown; and to these possessions he added a fine pair of moustachios, with which the poor creature strutted about; and though cursing his ill fortune, was, I do believe, as happy, whenever his friends brought him a guinea, as he had been during his brief career as a gentleman on town. I have seen sauntering dandies in watering-places ogling the women, watching eagerly for steam-boats and stage-coaches as if their lives depended upon them, and strutting all day in jackets up and down the public walks. Well, there are such fellows in prisons, quite as dandified and foolish, only a little more shabby — dandies with dirty beards and holes at their elbows.

I did not go near what is called the poor side of the prison — I *dared* not, that was the fact. But our little stock of money was running low; and my heart sickened to think what might be my dear wife's fate, and on what sort of a couch our child might be born. But Heaven spared me that pang, — Heaven, and my dear, good friend, Gus Hoskins.

The attorneys to whom Mr. Smithers recommended me told me that I could get leave to live in the rules of the Fleet, could I procure sureties to the marshal of the prison for the amount of the detainer lodged against me; but though I looked Mr. Blatherwick hard in the face, he never offered to give the bail for me, and I knew no housekeeper in London who would procure it. There was, however, one whom I did not know, — and that was old Mr. Hoskins, the leather-seller of Skinner Street, a kind fat gentleman, who brought his fat wife to see Mrs. Titmarsh; and though the lady gave herself rather patronising airs (her husband being free of the Skinners' Company, and bidding fair to be alderman, nay, lord-mayor of the first city of the world), she seemed heartily to sympathise with us; and her husband stirred and bustled about until the requisite leave was obtained, and I was allowed comparative liberty.

As for lodgings, they were soon had. My old landlady, Mrs. Stokes, sent her Jemima to say, that her first floor was at our service; and when we had taken possession of it, and I offered at the end of the week to pay her bill, the good soul, with tears in her eyes, told me that she did not want for money now, and that she knew I had enough to do with what I had. I did not refuse her kindness; for, indeed, I had but five guineas left, and ought not by rights to have thought of such expensive apartments as hers: but my wife's time was very near, and I could not bear to think that she should want for any comfort in her lying-in.

That admirable woman, with whom the Miss Hoskinses came every day to keep company — and very nice, kind ladies they are — recovered her health a good deal, now she was

out of the odious prison, and was enabled to take exercise. How gaily did we pace up and down Bridge Street and Chatham Place, to be sure! and yet, in truth, I was a beggar, and felt sometimes ashamed of being so happy.

With regard to the liabilities of the Company, my mind was now made quite easy; for the creditors could only come upon our directors, and these it was rather difficult to find. Mr. Brough was across the water; and I must say, to the credit of that gentleman, that while every body thought he had run away with hundreds of thousands of pounds, he was in a garret at Boulogne, with scarce a shilling in his pocket, and his fortune to make afresh. Mrs. Brough, like a good, brave woman, remained faithful to him, and only left Fulham with the gown on her back; and Miss Belinda, though grumbling and sadly out of temper, was no better off. For the other directors, — when they came to inquire at Edinburgh for Mr. Mull, W. S., it appeared there *was* a gentleman of that name, who had practised in Edinburgh with good reputation until 1800, since when he had retired to the Isle of Sky; and, on being applied to, knew no more of the West Diddlesex Association than Queen Anne did. General Sir Dionysius O'Halloran had abruptly quitted Dublin, and returned to the republic of Guatemala. Mr. Shirk went into the *Gazette*. Mr. Macraw, M. P. and king's counsel, had not a single guinea in the world but what he received for attending our board; and the only man seizable was Mr. Manstraw, a wealthy navy contractor, as we understood, at Chatham. He turned out to be a small dealer in marine stores, and his whole stock in trade was not worth 10*l*. Mr. Abednego was the other director, and we have already seen what became of *him*.

“Why, as there is no danger from the West Diddlesex,” suggested Mr. Hoskins, senior, “should you not now endeavour to make an arrangement with your creditors; and who can make a better bargain with them than pretty Mrs. Titmarsh here, whose sweet eyes would soften the hardest-hearted tailor or milliner that ever lived?”

Accordingly, my dear girl, one bright day in February, shook me by the hand, and, bidding me be of good cheer, set off with Gus in a coach, to pay a visit to those persons. Little did I think a year before, that the daughter of the gallant Smith should ever be compelled to be a suppliant to tailors and haberdashers; but, *she*, Heaven bless her, felt none of the shame which oppressed me, or *said* she felt none, and went away, nothing doubting, on her errand.

In the evening, she came back, and my heart thumped to know the news. I saw it was bad, by her face. For some time, she did not speak, but looked as pale as death, and wept as she kissed me. "*You* speak, Mr. Augustus," at last said she, sobbing; and so Gus told me the circumstances of that dismal day.

"What do you think, Sam?" says he; "that infernal aunt of yours, at whose command you had the things, has written to the tradesmen to say that you are a swindler and impostor; that you give out that *she* ordered the goods; that she is ready to drop down dead, and to take her bible-oath she never did any such thing, and that they must look to you alone for payment. Not one of them would hear of letting you out; and as for Mantalini, the scoundrel was so insolent, that I gave him a box on the ear, and would have half killed him, only poor Mary — Mrs. Titmarsh, I mean — screamed and fainted; and I brought her away, and here she is, as ill as can be."

That night, the indefatigable Gus was obliged to run post-haste for Doctor Salts, and next morning a little boy was born. I did not know whether to be sad or happy, as they showed me the little weakly thing; but Mary was the happiest woman, she declared, in the world, and forgot all her sorrows in nursing the poor baby; and went bravely through her time, and vowed that it was the loveliest child in the world; and that though Lady Tiptoff, whose confinement we read of as having taken place the same day, might have a silk bed and a fine house in Grosvenor Square, she never, never, could have such a beautiful child as our dear little Gus; for after whom

should we have named the boy, if not after our good, kind friend? We had a little party at the christening, and, I assure you, were very merry over our tea.

The mother, thank Heaven, was very well, and it did one's heart good to see her in that attitude in which I think every woman, be she ever so plain, looks beautiful — with her baby at her bosom. The child was sickly, but she did not see it: we were very poor, but what cared she? She had no leisure to be sorrowful as I was; and I had my last guinea now in my pocket; and when *that* was gone — ah! my heart sickened to think of what was to come, and I prayed for strength and guidance, and in the midst of my perplexities felt yet thankful that the danger of the confinement was over; and that for the worse fortune which was to befall us, my dear wife was at least strong, and prepared in health.

I told Mrs. Stokes that she must let us have a cheaper room — a garret, that should cost but a few shillings; and though the good woman bade me remain in the apartments we occupied, yet, now that my wife was well, I felt it would be a crime to deprive my kind landlady of her chief means of livelihood; and at length she promised to get me a garret, as I wanted, and to make it as comfortable as might be; and little Jemima declared that she would be glad beyond measure to wait on the mother and the child.

The room, then, was made ready; and though I took some pains not to speak of the arrangement too suddenly to Mary, yet there was no need of disguise or hesitation; for when at last I told her — “Is that all?” said she, and took my hand with one of her blessed smiles, and vowed that she and Jemima would keep the room as pretty and neat as possible. “And I will cook your dinners,” added she; “for you know you said I make the best roly-polly puddings in the world,” God bless her! I do think some women almost love poverty; but I did not tell Mary how poor I was, nor had she any idea how lawyers', and prisons', and doctors' fees had diminished the sum of money which she brought me when we came to the Fleet.

It was not, however, destined that she and her child should inhabit that little garret. We were to leave our lodgings on Monday morning; but on Saturday evening the child was seized with convulsions, and all Sunday the mother watched and prayed for it; but it pleased God to take the innocent infant from us, and on Sunday, at midnight, it lay a corpse in its mother's bosom. Amen. We have other children, happy and well, now round about us; and from the father's heart the memory of this little thing has almost faded; but I do believe, that every day of her life, the mother thinks of the firstborn that was with her for so short a while; and many and many a time has she taken her daughters to the grave, in Saint Bride's, where he lies buried, and wears still at her neck a little, little lock of gold hair, which she took from the head of the infant as he lay smiling in his coffin. It has happened to me to forget the child's birthday, but to her never; and often, in the midst of common talk, comes something that shows she is thinking of the child still, — some simple allusion that is to me inexpressibly affecting.

I shall not try to describe her grief, for such things are sacred and secret; and a man has no business to place them on paper for all the world to read. Nor should I have mentioned the child's loss at all, but that even that loss was the means of a great worldly blessing to us, as my wife has often with tears and thanks acknowledged.

While my wife was weeping over her child, I am ashamed to say I was distracted with other feelings besides those of grief for its loss; and I have often since thought what a master — nay, destroyer — of the affections want is, and have learned from experience to be thankful for *daily bread*. That acknowledgment of weakness which we make in imploring to be relieved from hunger and from temptation is surely wisely put in our daily prayer. Think of it you who are rich, and take heed how you turn a beggar away.

The child lay there in its wicker cradle, with its sweet fixed smile in its face (I think the angels in heaven must have been glad to welcome that pretty innocent smile); and

it was only the next day, after my wife had gone to lie down, and I sat keeping watch by it, that I remembered the condition of its parents, and thought, I can't tell with what a pang, that I had not money left to bury the little thing, and wept bitter tears of despair. Now, at last, I thought I must apply to my poor mother, for this was a sacred necessity; and I took paper, and wrote her a letter at the baby's side, and told her of our condition. But, thank Heaven, I never sent the letter; for as I went to the desk to get sealing-wax, and seal that dismal letter, my eyes fell upon the diamond-pin, that I had quite forgotten, and that was lying in the drawer of the desk.

I looked into the bed-room, — my poor wife was asleep; she had been watching for three nights and days, and had fallen to sleep from sheer fatigue; and I ran out to a pawnbroker's with the diamond, and received seven guineas for it, and coming back put the money into the landlady's hand, and told her to get what was needful. My wife was still asleep when I came back; and when she woke, we persuaded her to go down-stairs to the landlady's parlour, and meanwhile the necessary preparations were made, and the poor child consigned to its coffin.

The next day, after all was over, Mrs. Stokes gave me back three out of the seven guineas; and then I could not help sobbing out to her my doubts and wretchedness, telling her that this was the last money I had; and when that was gone, I knew not what was to become of the best wife that ever a man was blest with.

My wife was down-stairs with the woman. Poor Gus, who was with me, and quite as much affected as any of the party, took me by the arm, and led me down-stairs; and we quite forgot all about the prison and the rules, and walked a long, long way across Blackfriars Bridge, the kind fellow striving as much as possible to console me.

When we came back, it was in the evening. The first person who met me in the house was my kind mother, who fell into my arms, with many tears, and who rebuked me

tenderly for not having told her of my necessities. She never should have known of them, she said; but she had not heard from me since I wrote announcing the birth of the child, and she felt uneasy about my silence; and meeting Mr. Smithers in the street, asked from him news concerning me: whereupon, that gentleman, with some little show of alarm, told her that he thought her daughter-in-law was confined in an uncomfortable place; that Mrs. Hoggarty had left us; finally, that I was in prison. This news at once dispatched my poor mother on her travels, and she had only just come from the prison, where she learned my address.

I asked her whether she had seen my wife, and how she found her. Rather to my amaze, she said that Mary was out with the landlady when she arrived; and eight — nine o'clock came, and she was absent still.

At ten o'clock returned — not my wife, but Mrs. Stokes, and with her a gentleman, who shook hands with me on coming into the room, and said, "Mr. Titmarsh, I don't know whether you will remember me; my name is Tiptoff. I have brought you a note from Mrs. Titmarsh, and a message from my wife, who sincerely commiserates your loss, and begs you will not be uneasy at Mrs. Titmarsh's absence. She has been good enough to promise to pass the night with Lady Tiptoff; and I am sure you will not object to her being away from you, while she is giving happiness to a sick mother and a sick child." After a few more words, my lord left us. My wife's note only said that Mrs. Stokes would tell me all.

CHAPTER XIII.

In which it is shown that a good wife is the best diamond a man can wear in his bosom.

"MRS. TITMARSH, Ma'am," says Mrs. Stokes, "before I gratify your curiosity, Ma'am, permit me to observe that angels is scarce; and it's rare to have one, much more two, in a family. Both your son and your daughter-in-law,

Ma'am, are of that uncommon sort; they are, now, reely, Ma'am."

My mother said she thanked God for both of us; and Mrs. Stokes proceeded: —

"When the fu— when the seminary, Ma'am, was concluded this morning, your poor daughter-in-law was glad to take shelter in my humble parlour, Ma'am, where she wept, and told a thousand stories of the little cherub that's gone. Heaven bless us! it was here but a month, and no one could have thought it could have done such a many things in that time. But a mother's eyes are clear, Ma'am; and I had just such another angel, my dear little Antony, that was born before Jemima, and would have been twenty-three now were he in this wicked world, Ma'am. However, I won't speak of him, Ma'am, but of what took place.

"You must know, Ma'am, that Mrs. Titmarsh remained down-stairs while Mr. Samuel was talking with his friend, Mr. Hoskins; and the poor thing would not touch a bit of dinner, though we had it made comfortable; and after dinner, it was with difficulty I could get her to sup a little drop of wine-and-water, and dip a toast in it. It was the first morsel that had passed her lips for many a long hour, Ma'am.

"Well, she would not speak, and I thought it best not to interrupt her; but she sat and looked at my two youngest, that were playing on the rug; and just as Mr. Titmarsh and his friend Gus went out, the boy brought the newspaper, Ma'am, — it always comes from three to four, and I began a-reading of it. But I couldn't read much, for thinking of poor Mr. Sam's sad face, as he went out, and the sad story he told me about his money being so low, and every now and then I stopped reading, and bade Mrs. T. not to take on so; and told her some stories about my dear little Antony.

"‘Ah!’ says she, sobbing, and looking at the young ones, ‘you have other children, Mrs. Stokes; but that — that was my only one;’ and she flung back in her chair, and cried fit to break her heart; and I knew that the cry would do her good, and so went back to my paper — the *Morning Post*, Ma'am;

I always read it, for I like to know what's a-going on in the West End.

"The very first thing that my eyes lighted upon was this: 'Wanted immediately, a respectable person as wet-nurse. Apply at No. — Grosvenor Square.' 'Bless us and save us!' says I, 'here's poor Lady Tiptoff ill;' for I knew her ladyship's address, and how she was confined in the very same day with Mrs. T.; and, for the matter of that, her ladyship knows *my* address, having visited here.

"A sudden thought came over me. 'My dear Mrs. Titmarsh,' says I, 'you know how poor and how good your husband is.'

"'Yes,' says she, rather surprised.

"'Well, my dear,' says I, looking her hard in the face, 'Lady Tiptoff, who knows him, wants a nurse for her son, Lord Poynings. Will you be a brave woman, and look for the place, and mayhap replace the little one that God has taken from you?'

"She began to tremble and blush; and then I told her what you, Mr. Sam, had told me the other day about your money matters; and no sooner did she hear it, than she sprung to her bonnet, and said, 'Come, come;' and in five minutes she had me by the arm, and we walked together to Grosvenor Square. The air did her no harm, Mr. Sam, and during the whole of the walk she never cried but once, and then it was at seeing a nursery-maid in the Square.

"A great fellow in livery opens the door, and says, 'You're the forty-fifth as come about this ere place; but, fust, let me ask you a prelimnary question. Are you a Hirishwoman?'

"'No, Sir,' says Mrs. T.

"'That suffishnt, mem,' says the gentleman in plush; 'I see your not by your axnt. Step this way, ladies, if you please. You'll find some more candidix for the place up-stairs; but I sent away forty-four happlicants, because they *was* Hirish.'

"We were taken up-stairs over very soft carpets, and brought into a room, and told by an old lady who was there

to speak very softly, for my lady was only two rooms off. And when I asked how the baby and her ladyship were, the old lady told me both were pretty well; only the doctor said Lady Tiptoff was too delicate to nurse any longer; and so it was considered necessary to have a wet-nurse.

“There was another young woman in the room — a tall, fine woman as ever you saw — that looked very angry and contemptuous at Mrs. T. and me, and said, ‘I’ve brought a letter from the duchess whose daughter I nust; and I think, Mrs. Blenkinsop, mem, my Lady Tiptoff may look far before she finds such another nuss as me. Five feet six high, had the small-pox, married to a corporal in the Life-guards, perfectly healthy, best of charactiers, only drink water; and as for the child, Ma’am, if her ladyship had six, I’ve a plenty for them all.’

“As the woman was making this speech, a little gentleman in black came in from the next room, treading as if on velvet. The woman got up, and made him a low curtsy, and folding her arms on her great broad chest, repeated the speech she had made before. Mrs. T. did not get up from her chair, but only made a sort of a bow; which, to be sure, I thought was ill manners, as this gentleman was evidently the apothecary. He looked hard at her, and said, ‘Well, my good woman, and are you come about the place, too?’

““Yes, Sir,” says she, blushing.

““You seem very delicate. How old is your child? How many have you had? What character have you?’

“Your wife didn’t answer a word; so I stepped up, and said, ‘Sir,’ says I, ‘this lady has just lost her first child, and isn’t used to look for places, being the daughter of a captain in the navy; so you’ll excuse her want of manners in not getting up when you came in.’

“The doctor at this sat down and began talking very kindly to her; he said he was afraid that her application would be unsuccessful, as Mrs. Horner came very strongly recommended from the Duchess of Doncaster, whose relative Lady Tiptoff was; and presently my lady appeared, looking very

pretty, Ma'am, in an elegant lace-cap, and a sweet muslin *robe-de-skam*.

"A nurse came out of her ladyship's room with her; and while my lady was talking to us, walked up and down in the next room with something in her arms.

"First my lady spoke to Mrs. Horner, and then to Mrs. T.; but all the while she was talking, Mrs. Titmarsh, rather rudely as I thought, Ma'am, was looking into the next room; looking — looking at the baby there with all her might. My lady asked her her name, and if she had any character; and as she did not speak, I spoke up for her, and said she was the wife of one of the best men in the world; that her ladyship knew the gentleman, too, and had brought him a haunch of venison. Then Lady Tiptoff looked up quite astonished, and I told the whole story, how you had been head clerk, and that rascal, Brough, had brought you to ruin. 'Poor thing!' said my lady; Mrs. Titmarsh did not speak, but still kept looking at the baby; and the great big grenadier of a Mrs. Horner looked angrily at her.

"'Poor thing!' says my lady, taking Mrs. T.'s hand very kind, 'she seems very young. How old are you, my dear?'

"'Five weeks and two days!' says your wife, sobbing.

"Mrs. Horner burst into a laugh; but there was a tear in my lady's eyes, for she knew what the poor thing was a-thinking of.

"'Silence, woman!' says she angrily to the great grenadier-woman, and at this moment the child in the next room began crying.

"As soon as your wife heard the noise, she sprung from her chair and made a step forward, and put both her hands to her breast and said, 'The child — the child — give it me!' and then began to cry again.

"My lady looked at her for a moment, and then ran into the next room and brought her the baby, and the baby clung to her as if he knew her; and a pretty sight it was to see that dear woman with the child at her bosom.

"When my lady saw it, what do you think she did? After looking on for a bit, she put her arms round your wife's neck and kissed her.

"My dear," said she, "I am sure you are as good as you are pretty, and you shall keep the child: and I thank God for sending you to me!"

"These were her very words; and Dr. Bland, who was standing by, says, 'It's a second judgment of Solomon!'

"I suppose, my lady, you don't want *me*?' says the big woman, with another curtsey.

"Not in the least!" answers my lady, haughtily, and the grenadier left the room; and then I told all your story at full length, and Mrs. Blenkinsop kept me to tea, and I saw the beautiful room that Mrs. Titmarsh is to have next to Lady Tiptoff's; and when my lord came home, what does he do but insist upon coming back with me here in a hackney-coach, as he said he must apologise to you for keeping your wife away."

I could not help, in my own mind, connecting this strange event which, in the midst of our sorrow, came to console us, and in our poverty to give us bread, — I could not help connecting it with the *diamond-pin*, and fancying that the disappearance of that ornament had somehow brought a different and a better sort of luck into my family. And though some gents who read this may call me a poor-spirited fellow for allowing my wife to go out to service who was bred a lady, and ought to have servants herself, yet for my part I confess I did not feel one minute's scruple or mortification on the subject. If you love a person, is it not a pleasure to feel obliged to him? And this, in consequence, I felt. I was proud and happy at being able to think that my dear wife should be able to labour and earn bread for me, now misfortune had put it out of my power to support me and her. And now, instead of making any reflections of my own upon prison-discipline, I will recommend the reader to consult that admirable chapter in the life of Mr. Pickwick, in which the same theme is handled, and which shows how silly it is to deprive honest men of the

means of labour just at the moment when they most want it. What could I do? There were one or two gents in the prison who could work (literary gents, — one wrote his *Travels in Mesopotamia*, and the other his *Sketches at Almack's*, in the place); but all the occupation I could find was walking down Bridge Street, and then up Bridge Street; and staring at Alderman Waithman's windows, and then at the black man who swept the crossing. I never gave him any thing; but I envied him his trade and his broom, and the money that continually fell into his old hat. But I was not allowed even to carry a broom.

Twice or thrice — for Lady Tiptoff did not wish her little boy often to breathe the air of such a close place as Salisbury Square — my dear Mary came in the thundering carriage to see me. They were merry meetings; and — if the truth must be told — twice, when nobody was by, I jumped into the carriage and had a drive with her; and when I had seen her home, jumped into another hackney-coach, and drove back. But this was only twice, for the system was dangerous, and it might bring me into trouble, and it cost three shillings from Grosvenor Square to Ludgate Hill.

Here, meanwhile, my good mother kept me company; and what should we read of one day but the marriage of Mrs. Hoggarty and the Rev. Grimes Wapshot! My mother, who never loved Mrs. H., now said that she should repent all her life having allowed me to spend so much of my time with that odious, ungrateful woman; and added, that she and I too were justly punished for worshipping the Mammon of unrighteousness, and forgetting our natural feelings for the sake of my aunt's paltry lucre. Well, "Amen!" said I, "this is the end of all our fine schemes! My aunt's money and my aunt's diamond were the causes of my ruin, and now they are clear gone, thank Heaven! and I hope the old lady will be happy, and I must say I don't envy the Rev. Grimes Wapshot." So we put Mrs. Hoggarty out of our thoughts, and made ourselves as comfortable as might be.

"Rich and great people are slower in making Christians of their children than we poor ones, and little Lord Poynings was not christened until the month of June. A duke was one godfather, and Mr. Edward Preston, the state secretary, another; and that kind Lady Jane Preston, whom I have before spoken of, was the godmother to her nephew. She had long been made acquainted with my wife's history; and both she and her sister loved her heartily, and were very kind to her. Indeed there was not a single soul in the house, high or low, but was fond of that good sweet creature; and the very footmen were as ready to serve her as they were their own mistress.

"I tell you what, Sir," says one of them, "you see, Tit, my boy, I'm a connyshure, and up to snough; and if ever I see a lady in my life, Mrs. Titmarsh is one. I can't be familiar with her — I've tried —"

"Have you, Sir?" says I.

"Don't look so indignant! I can't, I say, be familiar with her as I am with you. There's a somethink in her, a jenny-squaw, that haws me, Sir! and even my lord's own man, that 'as 'ad as much success as any gentleman in Europe — he says, that cuss him —"

"Mr. Charles," says I, "tell my lord's own man that if he wants to keep his place and his whole skin, he will never address a single word to that lady but such as a servant should utter in the presence of his mistress; and take notice that I am a gentleman, though a poor one, and will murder the first man who does her wrong!"

Mr. Charles only said "Gammin!" to this; but, pshaw! in bragging about my own spirit, I forgot to say what great good fortune my dear wife's conduct procured for me.

On the christening day, Mr. Preston offered her first a five and then a twenty-pound note, but she declined either; but she did not decline a present that the two ladies made her together, and this was no other than *my release from the Fleet*. Lord Tiptoff's lawyer paid every one of the bills against me, and that happy christening day made me a free man. Ah!

who shall tell the pleasure of that day, or the merry dinner we had in Mary's room at Lord Tiptoff's house, when my lord and my lady came up-stairs to shake hands with me?

"I have been speaking to Mr. Preston," says my lord, "the gentleman with whom you had the memorable quarrel, and he has forgiven it, although he was in the wrong, and promises to do something for you. We are going down, meanwhile, to his house at Richmond; and be sure, Mr. Titmarsh, I will not fail to keep you in his mind."

"*Mrs.* Titmarsh will do that," says my lady, "for Edmund is woefully smitten with her!" and Mary blushed and I laughed, and we were all very happy; and sure enough there came from Richmond a letter to me, stating that I was appointed fourth clerk in the Tape and Sealing-wax Office, with a salary of 80*l.* per annum.

Here, perhaps, my story ought to stop, for I was happy at last, and have never since, thank Heaven! known want; but Gus insists that I should add how I gave up the place in the Tape and Sealing-wax Office, and for what reason. That excellent Lady Jane Preston is long gone, and so is Mr. P — off in an apoplexy, and there is no harm now in telling the story.

The fact was, that Mr. Preston had fallen in love with Mary in a much more serious way than any of us imagined; for I do believe he invited his brother-in-law to Richmond for no other purpose than to pay court to his son's nurse. And one day, as I was coming post-haste to thank him for the place he had procured for me, being directed by Mr. Charles to the scrubbery, as he called it, which led down to the river, — there, sure enough, I found Mr. Preston on his knees too on the gravel-walk, and before him Mary, holding the little lord.

"Dearest creature!" says Mr. Preston, "do but listen to me, and I'll make your husband consul at Timbuctoo! He shall *never* know of it, I tell you; he *can* never know of it. I pledge you my word as a cabinet minister! Oh, don't look at me in that arch way! by Heavens, your eyes kill me!"

Mary, when she saw me, burst out laughing, and ran down the lawn; my lord making a huge crowing, too, and holding out his little fat hands. Mr. Preston, who was a heavy man, was slowly getting up, when, catching a sight of me, looking as fierce as the crater of Mount Etna, — he gave a start back and lost his footing, and rolled over and over, walloping into the water at the garden's edge. It was not deep, and he came bubbling and snorting out again in as much fright as fury.

"You d—d ungrateful villain!" says he, "what do you stand laughing there for?"

"I 'm waiting your orders for Timbuctoo, Sir," says I, and laughed fit to die, and so did my Lord Tiptoff and his party, who joined us on the lawn; and Jeames the footman came forward and helped Mr. Preston out of the water.

"Oh, you old sinner!" says my lord, as his brother-in-law came up the slope. "Will that heart of yours be always so susceptible, you romantic, apoplectic, immoral man?"

Mr. Preston went away looking blue with rage, and ill-treated his wife for a whole month afterwards.

"At any rate," says my lord, "Titmarsh here has got a place through our friend's unhappy attachment; and Mrs. Titmarsh has only laughed at him, so there is no harm there. It's an ill wind that blows nobody good, you know."

"Such a wind as that, my lord, with due respect to you, shall never do good to me. I have learned in the past few years what it is to make friends with the Mammon of unrighteousness; and that out of such friendship, no good comes in the end to honest men. It shall never be said that Sam Titmarsh got a place because a great man was in love with his wife; and were the situation ten times as valuable, I should blush every day I entered the office-doors in thinking of the base means by which my fortune was made. You have made me free, my lord, and thank God I am willing to work. I can easily get a clerkship with

the assistance of my friends; and with that and my wife's income, we can manage honestly to face the world."

This rather long speech I made with some animation; for, look you, I was not over well pleased that his lordship should think me capable of speculating in any way on my wife's beauty.

My lord at first turned red, and looked rather angry; but at last he held out his hand and said, "You are right, Titmarsh, and I am wrong; and let me tell you in confidence that I think you are a very honest fellow. You sha'n't lose by your honesty, I promise you."

Nor did I; for am I not at this present moment Lord Tiptoff's steward and right-hand man; and am I not a happy father; and is not my wife loved and respected by all the country; and is not Gus Hoskins my brother-in-law, partner with his excellent father in the leather way, and the delight of all his nephews and nieces for his tricks and fun?

As for Mr. Brough, that gentleman's history would fill a volume of itself. Since he vanished from the London world, he has become celebrated on the Continent, where he has acted a thousand parts, and met all sorts of changes of high and low fortune. One thing we may at least admire in the man, and that is, his undaunted courage; and I can't help thinking, as I have said before, that there must be some good in him, seeing the way in which his family are faithful to him. With respect to Roundhand, I had best also speak tenderly. The case of Roundhand *v.* Tidd is still in the memory of the public; nor can I ever understand how Bill Tidd, so poetic as he was, could ever take on with such a fat, odious, vulgar woman as Mrs. R., who was old enough to be his mother.

As soon as we were in prosperity, Mr. and Mrs. Grimes Wapshot made overtures to be reconciled to us; and Mr. Wapshot laid bare to me all the baseness of Mr. Smithers's conduct in the Brough transaction. Smithers had also endeavoured to pay his court to me, once when I went down to Somersetshire; but I cut his pretensions short, as I have

shown. "He it was," said Mr. Wapshot, "who induced Mrs. Grimes (Mrs. Hoggarty she was then) to purchase the West Diddlesex shares; receiving, of course, a large bonus for himself. But directly he found that Mrs. Hoggarty had fallen into the hands of Mr. Brough, and that he should lose the income he made from the lawsuits with her tenants and from the management of her landed property, he determined to rescue her from that villain Brough, and came to town for the purpose. He, also," added Mr. Wapshot, "vented his malignant slander against me, but Heaven was pleased to frustrate his base schemes. In the proceedings consequent on Brough's bankruptcy, Mr. Smithers could not appear, for his own share in the transactions of the Company would have been most certainly shown up. During his absence from London, I became the husband — the happy husband of your aunt. But though, my dear Sir, I have been the means of bringing her to grace, I cannot disguise from you that Mrs. W. has faults which all my pastoral care has not enabled me to eradicate. She is close of her money, Sir — very close; nor can I make that charitable use of her property which, as a clergyman, I ought to do; for she has tied up every shilling of it, and only allows me half-a-crown a-week for pocket-money. In temper, too, she is very violent. During the first years of our union, I strove with her; yea, I chastised her; but her perseverance, I must confess, got the better of me. I make no more remonstrances, but am as a lamb in her hands, and she leads me whithersoever she pleases."

Mr. Wapshot concluded his tale by borrowing half-a-crown from me (it was at the Somerset Coffee-house in the Strand, where he came, in the year 1832, to wait upon me), and I saw him go from thence into the gin-shop opposite, and come out of the gin-shop half an hour afterwards, reeling across the streets, and perfectly intoxicated.

He died next year; when his widow, who called herself Mrs. Hoggarty-Grimes-Wapshot, of Castle Hoggarty, said that over the grave of her saint all earthly resentments were forgotten, and proposed to come and live with us: paying

us, of course, a handsome remuneration. But this offer my wife and I respectfully declined; and once more she altered her will, which once more she had made in our favour; called us ungrateful wretches, and pampered menials, and left all her property to the Irish Hoggartys. But seeing my wife one day in a carriage with Lady Tiptoff, and hearing that we had been at the great ball at Tiptoff Castle, and that I had grown to be a rich man, she changed her mind again, sent for me on her death-bed, and left me the farms of Sloperton and Squashtail, with all her savings for fifteen years. Peace be to her soul, for certainly she left me a very pretty property.

Though I am no literary man myself, my cousin Michael (who generally, when he is short of coin, comes down and passes a few months with us) says that my memoirs may be of some use to the public (meaning, I suspect, to himself); and if so, I am glad to serve him and them, and hereby take farewell, bidding all gents who peruse this, to be cautious of their money, if they have it; to be still more cautious of their friends' money; to remember that great profits imply great risks; and that the great shrewd capitalists of this country would not be content with four per cent for their money, if they could securely get more; above all, I entreat them never to embark in any speculation, of which the conduct is not perfectly clear to them, and of which the agents are not perfectly open and loyal.

THE END.

THE SNOBS OF ENGLAND,

THE

BY ONE OF THEMSELVES.

BOOK OF SNOBS.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

BY

W. M. THACKERAY.

THE

BOOK OF SMOBS

BY

W. M. THACHERAY

THE SNOBS OF ENGLAND.

BY ONE OF THEMSELVES.

PREFATORY REMARKS.

[*The necessity of a work on Snobs, demonstrated from History, and proved by felicitous illustrations: — I am the individual destined to write that work — My vocation is announced in terms of great eloquence — I show that the world has been gradually preparing itself for the WORK and the MAN — Snobs are to be studied like other objects of Natural Science, and are a part of the Beautiful (with a large B). They pervade all classes — Affecting instance of Colonel Snobley.*]

WE have all read a statement, (the authenticity of which I take leave to doubt entirely, for upon what calculations I should like to know is it founded?) — we have all, I say, been favoured by perusing a remark, that when the times and necessities of the world call for a Man, that individual is found. Thus at the French Revolution, (which the reader will be pleased to have introduced so early) when it was requisite to administer a corrective dose to the nation, ROBESPIERRE was found a most foul and nauseous dose indeed, and swallowed eagerly by the patient, greatly to the latter's ultimate advantage: thus, when it became necessary to kick JOHN BULL out of America, MR. WASHINGTON stepped forward, and performed that job to satisfaction: thus, when the EARL OF ALDBOROUGH was unwell, PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY appeared with his pills, and cured his Lordship, as per advertisement, &c. &c. Numberless instances might be adduced to show, that when a nation is in great want, the relief is at hand, just as in the Pan-

tomime (that microcosm) where when *Clown* wants anything—a warming-pan, a pump-handle, a goose, or a lady's tippet—a fellow comes sauntering out from behind the side-scenes with the very article in question.

Again, when men commence an undertaking, they always are prepared to show the absolute necessities of the world demanded its completion.—Say it is a railroad: the directors begin by stating that “A more intimate communication between Bathershins and Derrynane Beg is necessary for the advancement of civilisation, and demanded by the multitudinous acclamations of the great Irish people.” Or suppose it is a newspaper: the prospectus states that “At a time when the Church is in danger, threatened from without by savage fanaticism and miscreant unbelief, and undermined from within by dangerous Jesuitism and suicidal Schism, a Want has been universally felt—a suffering people has looked abroad—for an Ecclesiastical Champion and Guardian. A body of Prelates and Gentlemen have therefore stepped forward in this our hour of danger, and determined on establishing THE BEADLE newspaper,” &c., &c. But one or other of these points at least is incontrovertible. The public wants a thing, therefore it is supplied with it; or the public is supplied with a thing, therefore it wants it.

I have long gone about with a conviction on my mind that I had a work to do—a Work, if you like, with a great W; a Purpose to fulfil; a chasm to leap into, like CURTIUS, horse & foot; a Great Social Evil to Discover and to Remedy. That Conviction Has Pursued me for Years. It has Dogged me in the Busy Street; Seated Itself By Me in The Lonely Study; Jogged My Elbow as it Lifted The Wine-cup at the Festive Board; Pursued me through the Maze of Rotten Row; Followed me in Far Lands. On Brighton's Shingly Beach, or Margate's Sand; the Voice Outpiped the Roaring of the Sea: it Nestles in my Nightcap, And It Whispers, “Wake, Slumberer, thy Work Is Not Yet Done.” Last Year, By Moonlight, in the Colosseum; the Little Sedulous Voice Came To Me and Said, “SMITH, or JONES,” (The Writer's Name is Neither Here nor There)

“SMITH, or JONES, my fine fellow, this is all very well, but you ought to be at home writing your great work ON SNOBS.”

When a man has this sort of vocation it is all nonsense attempting to elude it. He must speak out to the nations; he must *unbusm* himself, as JEAMES would say, or choke and die. “Mark to yourself,” I have often mentally exclaimed to your humble servant, “the gradual way in which you have been prepared for, and are now led by an irresistible necessity to enter upon your great labour. First the World was made: then, as a matter of course, Snobs; they existed for years and years, and were no more known than America. But presently, — *ingens patebat tellus*, — the people became darkly aware that there was such a race. Not above five-and-twenty years since, a name, an expressive monosyllable, arose to designate that race. That name has spread over England like railroads subsequently; Snobs are known and recognised throughout an Empire on which I am given to understand the Sun never sets. *Punch* appears at the ripe season, to chronicle their history; and THE INDIVIDUAL comes forth to write that history in *Punch*.

I have (and for this gift I congratulate myself with a Deep and Abiding Thankfulness) an eye for a Snob. If the Truthful is the Beautiful: it is Beautiful to study even the Snobbish; to track Snobs through history, as certain little dogs in Hampshire hunt out truffles; to sink shafts in society and come upon rich veins of Snob-ore. Snobbishness is like Death in a quotation from Horace, which I hope you never have heard, “beating with equal foot at poor men’s doors, and kicking at the gates of Emperors.” It is a great mistake to judge of Snobs lightly, and think they exist among the lower classes merely. An immense per centage of Snobs I believe is to be found in every rank of this mortal life. You must not judge hastily or vulgarly of Snobs: to do so shows that you are yourself a Snob. I myself have been taken for one.

When I was taking the waters at Bagnigge Wells, and living at the Imperial Hotel there, there used to sit opposite me at breakfast, for a short time, a Snob so insufferable that I felt I

should never get any benefit of the waters so long as he remained. His name was **LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SNOBLEY**, of a certain dragoon regiment. He wore japanned boots and moustachios: he lisped, drawled, and left the "r's" out of his words: he was always flourishing about, and smoothing his lacquered whiskers with a huge flaming bandanna, that filled the room with an odour of musk so stifling that I determined to do battle with that Snob, and that either he or I should quit the Inn. I first began harmless conversations with him; frightening him exceedingly, for he did not know what to do when so attacked, and had never the slightest notion that anybody would take such a liberty with him as to speak *first*: then I handed him the paper: then, as he would take no notice of these advances, I used to look him in the face steadily and — and use my fork in the light of a toothpick. After two mornings of this practice, he could bear it no longer, and fairly quitted the place.

Should the Colonel see this, will he remember the Gent. who asked him if he thought **PUBLICOALER** was a fine writer, and drove him from the Hotel with a four-pronged fork?

CHAPTER I.

The Snob playfully dealt with.

THERE are relative and positive Snobs. I mean by positive, such persons as are Snobs everywhere, in all companies, from morning till night, from youth to the grave, being by Nature endowed with Snobbishness — and others who are Snobs only in certain circumstances and relations of life.

For instance: I once knew a man who committed before me an act as atrocious as that which I have indicated in the last chapter as performed by me for the purpose of disgusting COLONEL SNOBLEY; viz., the using the fork in the guise of a toothpick. I once, I say, knew a man who, dining in my company at the Europa coffee-house, (opposite the Grand Opera, and, as everybody knows, the only decent place for dining at Naples,) ate peas with the assistance of his knife. He was a person with whose society I was greatly pleased at first — indeed, we had met in the crater of Mount Vesuvius, and were subsequently robbed and held to ransom by brigands in Calabria, which is nothing to the purpose — a man of great powers, excellent heart, and varied information; but I had never before seen him with a dish of peas, and his conduct in regard to them caused me the deepest pain.

After having seen him thus publicly comport himself, but one course was open to me — to cut his acquaintance. I commissioned a mutual friend (the HONOURABLE POLY ANTHUS) to break the matter to this gentleman as delicately as possible, and to say that painful circumstances — in no wise affecting MR. MARROWFAT'S honour, or my esteem for him — had occurred, which obliged me to forego my intimacy with him; and accordingly we met, and gave each other the cut direct that night at the DUCHESS OF MONTE FIASCO'S ball.

Everybody at Naples remarked the separation of the DAMON and PYTHIAS — indeed, MARROWFAT had saved my life more than once — but, as an English gentleman, what was I to do?

My dear friend was, in this instance, the Snob *relative*. It is not snobbish of persons of rank of any other nation to employ their knife in the manner alluded to. I have seen MONTE FIASCO clean his trencher with his knife, and every Principe in company doing likewise. I have seen, at the hospitable board of H. I. H. the GRAND DUCHESS STEPHANIE OF BADEN — (who, if these humble lines should come under her Imperial eyes, is besought to remember graciously the most devoted of her servants) — I have seen, I say, the Hereditary Princess of Potztausend-Donnerwetter (that serenely-beautiful woman) use her knife in lieu of a fork or spoon; I have seen her almost swallow it, by Jove! like RAMO SAMEE, the Indian juggler. And did I blench? Did my estimation for the Princess diminish? No, lovely AMALIA! One of the truest passions that ever was inspired by woman was raised in this bosom by that lady. Beautiful one! long, long may the knife carry food to those lips! the reddest and loveliest in the world!

The cause of my quarrel with MARROWFAT I never breathed to mortal soul for four years. We met in the halls of the aristocracy — our friends and relatives. We jostled each other in the dance or at the board; but the estrangement continued, and seemed irrevocable, until the fourth of June, last year.

We met at SIR GEORGE GOLLOPER'S. We were placed, he on the right, your humble servant on the left of the admirable LADY G. Peas formed part of the banquet — ducks and green peas. I trembled as I saw MARROWFAT helped, and turned away sickening, lest I should behold the weapon darting down his horrid jaws.

What was my astonishment, what my delight when I saw him use his fork like any other Christian! He did not administer the cold steel once. Old times rushed back upon me — the remembrance of old services — his rescuing me from the brigands — his gallant conduct in the affair with the COUNTESS

DEI SPINACHI — his lending me the 1700*l*. I almost burst into tears with joy — my voice trembled with emotion. “GEORGE, my boy!” I exclaimed, “GEORGE MARROWFAT, my dear fellow! a glass of wine!”

Blushing — deeply moved — almost as tremulous as I was myself, GEORGE answered, “*Frank, shall it be Hock or Madeira?*” I could have hugged him to my heart but for the presence of the company. Little did LADY GOLLOPER know what was the cause of the emotion which sent the duckling I was carving into her Ladyship’s pink satin lap. The most good-natured of women pardoned the error, and the butler removed the bird.

We have been the closest friends ever since, nor, of course, has GEORGE repeated his odious habit. He acquired it at a country school, where they cultivated peas, and only used two-pronged forks, and it was only by living on the continent, where the usage of the four-prong is general, that he lost the horrible custom.

In this point — and in this only — I confess myself a member of the SILVER FORK SCHOOL, and if this tale induce but one reader of *Punch* to pause, to examine in his own mind solemnly, and ask, “Do I or do I not eat peas with a knife?” — to see the ruin which may fall upon himself by continuing the practice, or his family by beholding the example, these lines will not have been written in vain. And now, whatever other authors may be who contribute to this miscellany, I flatter myself, it will be allowed, that *I*, at least, am a moral man.

By the way, as some readers are dull of comprehension, I may as well say what the moral of this history is. The moral is this — Society having ordained certain customs, men are bound to obey the law of society, and conform to its harmless orders.

If I should go to the British and Foreign Institute (and Heaven forbid I should go under any pretext or in any costume whatever) — if I should go to one of the tea-parties in a dressing-gown and slippers, and not in the usual attire of a gentleman, viz., pumps, a gold waistcoat, a crush hat, a sham

frill, and a white choker — I should be insulting society, and *eating peas with my knife*. Let the porters of the Institute hustle out the individual who shall so offend. Such an offender is, as regards society, a most emphatical and refractory SNOB. It has its code and police as well as governments, and he must conform who would profit by the decrees set forth for their common comfort.

I am naturally averse to egotism, and hate self-laudation consumedly; but I can't help relating here a circumstance illustrative of the point in question, in which I must think I acted with considerable prudence.

Being at Constantinople a few years since — (on a delicate mission) — the Russians were playing a double game, between ourselves, and it became necessary on our part to employ an *extra negotiator* — LECKERBISS PASHA of Roumelia, then Chief Galeongee of the Porte, gave a diplomatic banquet at his summer palace at Bujukdere. I was on the left of the Galeongee; and the Russian agent COUNT DE DIDDLOFF on his dexter side. DIDDLOFF is a dandy who would die of a rose in aromatic pain: he had tried to have me assassinated three times in the course of the negotiation: but of course we were friends in public, and saluted each other in the most cordial and charming manner.

The Galeongee is—or was, alas! for a bow-string has done for him—a staunch supporter of the old school of Turkish politics. We dined with our fingers, and had flaps of bread for plates; the only innovation he admitted was the use of European liquors, in which he indulged with great gusto. He was an enormous eater. Amongst the dishes a very large one was placed before him of a lamb dressed in its wool, stuffed with prunes, garlic, assafœtida, capsicums, and other condiments, the most abominable mixture that ever mortal smelt or tasted. The Galeongee ate of this hugely; and pursuing the Eastern fashion, insisted on helping his friends right and left, and when he came to a particularly spicy morsel, would push it with his own hands into his guests' very mouths.

I never shall forget the look of poor DIDDLOFF, when his Excellency, rolling up a large quantity of this into a ball and exclaiming, "Buk Buk" (it is very good), administered the horrible bolus to DIDDLOFF. The Russian's eyes rolled dreadfully as he received it: he swallowed it with a grimace that I thought must precede a convulsion, and seizing a bottle next him, which he thought was Sauterne, but which turned out to be French brandy, he drank off nearly a pint before he knew his error. It finished him; he was carried away from the dining room almost dead, and laid out to cool in a summer-house on the Bosphorus.

When it came to my turn, I took down the condiment with a smile, said Bismillah, licked my lips with easy gratification, and when the next dish was served, made up a ball myself so dexterously, and popped it down the old Galeongee's mouth with so much grace, that his heart was won. Russia was put out of Court at once, *and the treaty of Kabobanople was signed.* As for DIDDLOFF, all was over with *him*, he was recalled to St. Petersburg, and SIR RODERIC MURCHISON saw him, under the No. 3967, working in the Ural mines.

The moral of this tale I need not say, is, that there are many disagreeable things in society which you are bound to take down, and to do so with a smiling face.

CHAPTER II.

The Snob royal.

LONG since, at the commencement of the reign of her present GRACIOUS MAJESTY, it chanced 'on a fair summer evening, as MR. JAMES would say, that three or four young cavaliers were drinking a cup of wine after dinner at the hostelry called the KING'S ARMS, kept by MISTRESS ANDERSON, in the royal village of Kensington. 'T was a balmy evening, and the wayfarers looked out on a cheerful scene. The tall elms of the ancient gardens were in full leaf, and countless chariots of the nobility of England whirled by to the neighbouring palace, where princely SUSSEX (whose income latterly only allowed

him to give tea-parties) entertained his royal niece at a state banquet. When the *caroches* of the nobles had set down their owners at the banquet-hall, their varlets and servitors came to quaff a flagon of nut-brown ale in the King's Arms garden, hard by. We watched these fellows from our lattice. By Saint Boniface! 't was a rare sight!

The tulips in MYNHEER VAN DUNK's gardens were not more gorgeous than the liveries of these pie-coated retainers. All the flowers of the field bloomed in their ruffled bosoms, all the hues of the rainbow gleamed in their plush breeches, and the long-caned ones walked up and down the garden with that charming solemnity, that delightful quivering swagger of the calves, which has always had a frantic fascination for us. The walk was not wide enough for them as the shoulder-knots strutted up and down it in canary, and crimson, and light blue.

Suddenly, in the midst of their pride, a little bell was rung, a side door opened, and (after setting down their Royal Mistress) HER MAJESTY'S OWN CRIMSON FOOTMEN, with epaulets and black plushes, came in.

It was pitiable to see the other poor JOHNS slink off at this arrival! Not one of the honest private Plushes could stand up before the Royal Flunkies. They left the walk: they sneaked into dark holes and drank their beer in silence. The Royal Plush kept possession of the garden until the Royal Plush dinner was announced, when it retired, and we heard from the pavilion where they dined conservative cheers, and speeches, and Kentish fires. The other Flunkies we never saw more.

My dear Flunkies, so absurdly conceited at one moment, and so abject at the next, are but the types of their masters in this world. *He who meanly admires mean things is a Snob* — perhaps that is a safe definition of the character.

And this is why I have, with the utmost respect, ventured to place THE SNOB ROYAL at the head of my list, causing all others to give way before him, as the Flunkies before the royal representative in Kensington Gardens. To say of such and

such a Gracious Sovereign that he is a Snob, is but to say that His Majesty is a man. Kings, too, are men and Snobs. In a country where Snobs are in the majority, a prime one, surely, cannot be unfit to govern. With us they have succeeded to admiration.

For instance, JAMES I. was a Snob, and a Scotch Snob, than which the world contains no more offensive creature. He appears to have had not one of the good qualities of a man — neither courage, nor generosity, nor honesty, nor brains; but read what the great Divines and Doctors of England said about him! CHARLES II. his grandson was a rogue, but not a Snob; whilst LOUIS XIV., his old squaretoes of a contemporary, — the great worshipper of Bigwiggery — has always struck me as a most undoubted and Royal Snob.

I will not, however, take instances from our own country of Royal Snobs, but refer to a neighbouring kingdom, that of Brentford — and its monarch, the late great and lamented GORGIUS IV. With the same humility, with which the footmen at the King's Arms gave way before the Plush Royal, the aristocracy of the Brentford nation bent down and truckled before GORGIUS, and proclaimed him the first gentleman in Europe. And it's a wonder to think what is the gentlefolks' opinion of a gentleman, when they gave GORGIUS such a title.

What is it to be a gentleman? Is it to be honest, to be gentle, to be generous, to be brave, to be wise, and, possessing all these qualities, to exercise them in the most graceful outward manner? Ought a gentleman to be a loyal son, a true husband, and honest father? Ought his life to be decent — his bills to be paid — his tastes to be high and elegant — his aims in life lofty and noble? In a word, ought not the Biography of a First Gentleman in Europe to be of such a nature, that it might be read in Young Ladies' Schools with advantage, and studied with profit in the Seminaries of Young Gentlemen? I put this question to all instructors of youth — to MRS. ELLIS and the Women of England; to all schoolmasters, from DOCTOR HAWTREY down to MR. SQUEERS.

I conjure up before me an awful tribunal of youth and innocence, attended by its venerable instructors, (like the ten thousand red-cheeked charity-children in Saint Paul's) sitting in judgment, and GORGIUS pleading his cause in the midst. Out of Court, out of Court, fat old FLORIZEL! Beadles, turn out that bloated, pimple-faced man! — If GORGIUS *must* have a statue in the new Palace which the Brentford nation is building, it ought to be set up in the Flunkies Hall. He should be represented cutting out a coat, in which art he is said to have excelled. He also invented Maraschino punch, a shoe-buckle, (this was in the vigour of his youth, and the prime force of his invention,) and a Chinese pavilion, the most hideous building in the world. He could drive a four-in-hand very nearly as well as the Brighton coachman, could fence elegantly, and, it is said, played the fiddle well. And he smiled with such irresistible fascination, that persons who were introduced into his august presence became his victims, body and soul, as a rabbit becomes the prey of a great big boa-constrictor.

I would wager that if MR. WIDDICOMB were, by a revolution, placed on the throne of Brentford, people would be equally fascinated by his irresistibly majestic smile, and tremble as they knelt down to kiss his hand. If he went to Dublin they would erect an obelisk on the spot where he first landed, as the Paddylanders did when GORGIUS visited them. We have all of us read with delight that story of the King's voyage to Haggisland, where his presence inspired such a fury of loyalty; and where the most famous man of the country — the BARON OF BRADWARDINE — coming on board the royal yacht, and finding a glass out of which GORGIUS had drunk, put it into his coat pocket as an inestimable relic, and went ashore in his boat again. But the Baron sat down upon the glass and broke it, and cut his coat-tails very much; and the inestimable relic was lost to the world for ever. O noble BRADWARDINE! what Old-World superstition could set you on your knees before such an idol as that?

If you want to moralise upon the mutability of human

affairs go and see the figure of GORGIUS in his real, identical robes, at the wax-work. — Admittance one shilling. Children and flunkies sixpence. Go, and pay sixpence.

CHAPTER III.

The influence of the aristocracy on Snobs.

LAST Sunday week, being at church in this city, and the service just ended, I heard two Snobs conversing about the Parson. One was asking the other who the clergyman was? "He is Mr. So-and-so," the second Snob answered, "domestic chaplain to the Earl of What-d'ye-call'um." "Oh, IS HE?" said the first Snob, with a tone of indescribable satisfaction. — The Parson's orthodoxy and identity were at once settled in this Snob's mind. He knew no more about the Earl than about the Chaplain, but he took the latter's character upon the authority of the former; and went home quite contented with his Reverence, like a little truckling Snob.

This incident gave me more matter for reflection even than the sermon: and wonderment at the extent and prevalence of Lordolatry in this country. What could it matter to Snob whether his Reverence were chaplain to his Lordship or not? What peerage-worship there is all through this free country! How we are all implicated in it, and more or less down on our knees. — And with regard to the great subject on hand, I think that the influence of the Peerage upon Snobbishness has been more remarkable than that of any other institution. The increase, encouragement, and maintenance of Snobs are among the "priceless services," as LORD JOHN RUSSELL says, which we owe to the nobility.

It can't be otherwise. A man becomes enormously rich, or he jobs successfully in the aid of a minister, or he wins a great battle, or executes a treaty, or is a clever lawyer who makes a multitude of fees and ascends the bench; and the country rewards him for ever with a gold coronet (with more or less balls or leaves) and a title, and a rank as legislator. "Your

merits are so great," says the nation, "that your children shall be allowed to reign over us, in a manner. It does not in the least matter that your eldest son be a fool: we think your services so remarkable, that he shall have the reversion of your honours when death vacates your noble shoes. If you are poor we will give you such a sum of money as shall enable you and the eldest-born of your race for ever to live in fat and splendour. It is our wish that there should be a race set apart in this happy country, who shall hold the first rank, have the first prizes and chances in all government jobs and patronages. We cannot make all your dear children Peers — that would make Peerage common and crowd the house of Lords uncomfortably — but the young ones shall have everything a Government can give: they shall get the pick of all the places: they shall be Captains and Lieutenant-Colonels at nineteen, when hoary-headed old lieutenants are spending thirty years at drill: they shall command ships at one-and-twenty, and veterans who fought before they were born. And as we are eminently a free people, and in order to encourage all men to do their duty, we say to any man of any rank — get enormously rich, make immense fees as a lawyer, or great speeches, or distinguish yourself and win battles — and you, even you, shall come into the privileged class, and your children shall reign naturally over ours."

How can we help Snobbishness, with such a prodigious national institution erected for its worship? How can we help cringing to Lords? Flesh and blood can't do otherwise. What man can withstand this prodigious temptation? Inspired by what is called a noble emulation, some people grasp at honours and win them; others, too weak or mean, blindly admire and grovel before those who have gained them; others, not being able to acquire them, furiously hate, abuse, and envy. There are only a few bland and not-in-the-least-conceited philosophers, who can behold the state of society, viz., Toadyism, organised: — base Man-and-Mammon worship, instituted by command of law: — SNOBBISHNESS, in a word, perpetuated, and mark the phenomenon calmly. And of these calm

moralists, is there one I wonder whose heart would not throb with pleasure if he could be seen walking arm-in-arm with a couple of Dukes down Pall Mall? No: it is impossible, in our condition of society, not to be sometimes a Snob.

On one side it encourages the Commoner to be snobbishly mean: and the noble to be snobbishly arrogant. When a noble Marchioness writes in her travels about the hard necessity under which steam-boat travellers labour of being brought into contact "with all sorts and conditions of people:" implying that a fellowship with God's creatures is disagreeable to her Ladyship, who is their superior: — when, I say, the MARCHIONESS OF — writes in this fashion, we must consider that out of her natural heart it would have been impossible for any woman to have had such a sentiment; but that the habit of truckling and cringing, which all who surround her have adopted towards this beautiful and magnificent lady, — this proprietor of so many black and other diamonds, has really induced her to believe that she is the superior of the world in general: and that people are not to associate with her except awfully at a distance. I recollect being once at the City of Grand Cairo, through which a European Royal Prince was passing India-wards. One night at the inn there was a great disturbance: a man had drowned himself in the well hard by: all the inhabitants of the hotel came bustling into the Court, and amongst others your humble servant, who asked of a certain young man the reason of the disturbance. How was I to know that this young gent. was a Prince? He had not his crown and sceptre on: he was dressed in a white jacket and felt hat: but he looked surprised at anybody speaking to him: answered an unintelligible monosyllable, and — *beckoned his Aide-de-Camp to come and speak to me.* It is our fault, not that of the great, that they should fancy themselves so far above us. If you *will* fling yourself under the wheels, Juggernaut will go over you, depend upon it; and if you and I, my dear friend, had Kotoo performed before us every day, — found people whenever we appeared grovelling in slavish adoration, we should drop into the airs of superiority quite

naturally, and accept the greatness with which the world insisted upon endowing us.

Here is an instance out of LORD L—'s travels, of that calm, good-natured, undoubting way in which a great man accepts the homage of his inferiors. After making some profound and ingenious remarks about the town of Brussels, his Lordship says: — "Staying some days at the Hotel de Belle Vue — a greatly overrated establishment, and not nearly so comfortable as the Hotel de France — I made acquaintance with DR. L—, the physician of the mission. He was desirous of doing the honour of the place to me, and he ordered for us a *dîner en gourmand* at the chief restaurateur's, maintaining, it surpassed the Rocher at Paris. Six or eight partook of the entertainment, and we all agreed it was infinitely inferior to the Paris display, and much more extravagant. So much for the copy."

And so much for the gentleman who gave the dinner. Dr. L—, desirous to do his Lordship "the honour of the place," feasts him with the best victuals money can procure — and my lord finds the entertainment extravagant and inferior. Extravagant! it was not extravagant to *him*; — Inferior! MR. L— did his best to satisfy those noble jaws, and my lord receives the entertainment, and dismisses the giver with a rebuke. It is like a three-tailed Pasha grumbling about an unsatisfactory bucksheesh.

But how should it be otherwise in a country where Lordolatry is part of our creed, and when our children are brought up to respect the Peerage as the Englishman's second Bible?

CHAPTER IV.

"The court circular," and its influence on Snobs.

EXAMPLE is the best of precepts; so let us begin with a true and authentic story, showing how young aristocratic Snobs are reared, and how early their Snobbishness may be made to bloom. A beautiful and fashionable lady — (pardon, gracious Madam, that your story should be made public; but it is so moral that it ought to be known to the universal world) — told me that in her early youth she had a little acquaintance, who is now indeed a beautiful and fashionable lady too. In mentioning Miss SNOBKY, daughter of SIR SNOBBY SNOBKY, whose presentation at Court caused such a sensation last Thursday; need I say more?

When Miss SNOBKY was so very young as to be in the nursery regions, and to walk of early mornings in St. James's Park, protected by a French governess and followed by a huge hirsute flunky in the canary-coloured livery of the SNOBKYS, she used occasionally in these promenades to meet with young LORD CLAUDE LOLLIPOP, the MARQUIS OF SILLABUB's younger son. In the very height of the season, from some unexplained cause, the SNOBKYS suddenly determined upon leaving town. Miss SNOBKY spoke to her female friend and confidante. "What will poor CLAUDE LOLLIPOP say when he hears of my absence?" asked the tender-hearted child.

"O, perhaps he won't hear of it," answers the confidante.

"*My dear, he will read it in the papers,*" replied the dear little fashionable rogue of seven years old. She knew already her importance, and how all the world of England, how all the would-be-genteel people, how all the silver-fork worshippers, how all the tattle-mongers, how all the grocers' ladies, the tailors' ladies, the attorneys' and merchants' ladies, and the people living at Clapham and Brunswick Square, who have no more chance of consorting with a SNOBKY, than my

beloved reader has of dining with the Emperor of China — yet watched the movements of the SNOBKYS with interest, and were glad to know when they came to London and left it.

Here is the account of MISS SNOBKY's dress, and that of her mother LADY SNOBKY, from the papers of last Friday: —

“MISS SNOBKY.

“Habit de Cour, composed of a yellow nankeen illusion dress over a slip of rich pea-green corduroy, trimmed en tablier, with bouquets of Brussels sprouts: the body and sleeves handsomely trimmed with calimanco, and festooned with a pink train and white radishes. Head dress, carrots and lappets.

“LADY SNOBKY.

“Costume de Cour, composed of a train of the most superb Pekin bandannas, elegantly trimmed with spangles, tinfoil, and red-tape. Bodice and under-dress of sky-blue velveteen, trimmed with bouffants and nœuds of bell-pulls. Stomacher, a muffin. Head-dress, a bird's nest, with a bird of paradise, over a rich brass knocker en ferrennière. This splendid costume, by MADAME CRINOLINE, of Regent Street, was the object of universal admiration.

This is what you read. O, MRS. ELLIS! O, mothers, daughters, aunts, grandmothers of England, this is the sort of writing which is put in the newspapers for you! How can you help being the mothers, daughters, &c., of Snobs, so long as this balderdash is set before you?

You stuff the little rosy foot of a Chinese young lady of fashion into a slipper that is about the size of a salt-cruet, and keep the poor little toes there imprisoned and twisted up so long that the dwarfishness becomes irremediable. Later the foot would not expand to the natural size were you to give her a washing-tub for a shoe, and for all her life she has little feet, and is a cripple. O, my dear MISS WIGGINS, thank your stars that those beautiful feet of yours — though

I declare when you walk they are so small as to be almost invisible — thank your stars that society never so practised upon them, but look around and see how many friends of ours in the highest circles have had their *brains* so prematurely and hopelessly pinched and distorted.

How can you expect that those poor creatures are to move naturally when the world and their parents have mutilated them so cruelly? As long as a Court Circular exists, how the deuce are people whose names are chronicled in it ever to believe themselves the equals of the cringing race which daily reads that abominable trash? I believe that ours is the only country in the world now, where the Court Circular remains in full flourish — where you read, "This day HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE PATTYPAN was taken an airing in his go-cart." "The PRINCESS PIMMINY was taken a drive, attended by her ladies of honour and accompanied by her doll," &c. We laugh at the solemnity with which SAINT SIMON announces that *Sa Majesté se médicamente aujourd'hui*. Under our very noses the same folly is daily going on. That wonderful and mysterious man, the author of the Court Circular, drops in with his budget at the newspaper offices every night. I once asked the editor of a paper to allow me to lie in wait and see him.

I am told that in a kingdom where there is a German King-Consort (Portugal it must be, for the QUEEN of that country married a German Prince, who is greatly admired and respected by the natives), whenever the consort takes the diversion of shooting among the rabbit-warrens of Cintra, or the pheasant-preserves of Mafra, he has a keeper to load his guns, as a matter of course, and then they are handed to the nobleman, his equerry, and the nobleman hands them to the Prince, who blazes away — gives back the discharged gun to the nobleman, who gives it to the keeper, and so on. But the Prince *won't take the gun from the hands of the loader*.

As long as this unnatural and monstrous etiquette con-

tinues, Snobs there must be. The three persons engaged in this transaction are, for the time being, Snobs.

1. The keeper — the least Snob of all, because he is discharging his daily duty; but he appears here as a Snob, that is to say, in a position of debasement, before another human being, (the Prince,) with whom he is only allowed to communicate through another party. A free Portuguese gamekeeper, who confesses himself to be unworthy to communicate directly with any person, confesses himself to be a Snob.

2. The nobleman in waiting is a Snob. If it degrades the Prince to receive the gun from the gamekeeper, it is degrading to the nobleman in waiting to execute that service. He acts as a Snob towards the keeper, whom he keeps from communication with the Prince — a snob towards the Prince, to whom he pays a degrading homage.

3. The King-Consort of Portugal is a Snob for insulting fellow-men in this way. There's no harm in his accepting the services of the keeper directly; but indirectly he insults the service performed, and the two servants who perform it; and therefore, I say respectfully, is a most undoubted, though royal SN—B.

And then you read in the *Diario do Governo* — "Yesterday, His Majesty, the king, took the diversion of shooting in the woods of Cintra, attended by COLONEL the HONOURABLE WHISKERANDO SOMBRERO. His Majesty returned to the Necessidades to lunch, at," &c., &c.

Oh, that Court Circular! once more, I exclaim. Down with the Court Circular — that engine and propagator of Snobbishness! I promise to subscribe for a year to any daily paper that shall come out without a Court Circular — were it the *Morning Herald* itself. When I read that trash, I rise in my wrath; I feel myself disloyal, a regicide, a member of the Calf's Head Club. The only Court Circular story which ever pleased me, was that of the King of Spain, who in great part was roasted because there was not time for the Prime Minister to command the Lord Chamberlain to desire the Grand Gold

Stick to order the first page in waiting to bid the chief of the flunkies to request the Housemaid of Honour to bring up a pail of water to put His Majesty out.

I am like the Pasha of three tails, to whom the Sultan sends *his* Court Circular, the bowstring.

It *chokes* me. May its usage be abolished for ever.

CHAPTER V.

What Snobs admire.

Now let us consider how difficult it is even for great men to escape from being Snobs. It is very well for the reader, whose fine feelings are disgusted by the assertion that Kings, Princes, Lords, are Snobs, to say, "You are confessedly a Snob yourself. In professing to depict Snobs, it is only your own ugly mug which you are copying with a Narcissuslike conceit and fatuity." But I shall pardon this explosion of ill temper on the part of my constant reader, reflecting upon the misfortune of his birth and country. It is impossible for *any* Briton, perhaps, not to be a Snob in some degree. If people can be convinced of this fact, an immense point is gained, surely. If I have pointed out the disease, let us hope that other scientific characters may discover the remedy.

If you, who are a person of the middle ranks of life, are a Snob, — you whom nobody flatters particularly; you who have no toadies; you whom no cringing flunkies or shopmen bow out of doors; you whom the policeman tells to move on; you who are jostled in the crowd of this world, and amongst the Snobs our brethren; consider how much harder it is for a man to escape who has not your advantages, and is all his life long subject to adulation; the butt of meanness; consider how difficult it is for the Snob's idol not to be a Snob.

As I was discoursing with my friend EUGENIO in this impressive way, LORD BUCKRAM passed us, the son of the MARQUIS OF BAGWIG, and knocked at the door of the family mansion in Red Lion Square. His noble father and mother

occupied, as everybody knows, distinguished posts in the Courts of late Sovereigns. The Marquis was Lord of the Pantry, and her Ladyship, Lady of the Powder Closet to QUEEN CHARLOTTE. BUCK (as I call him, for we are very familiar) gave me a nod as he passed, and I proceeded to show to EUGENIO how it was impossible that this nobleman should not be one of ourselves, having been practised upon by Snobs all his life.

His parents resolved to give him a public education, and sent him to school at the earliest possible period. The REVEREND OTTO ROSE, D.D., Principal of the Preparatory Academy for young noblemen and gentlemen, Richmond Lodge, took this little Lord in hand, and fell down and worshipped him. He always introduced him to fathers and mothers who came to visit their children at the school. He referred with pride and pleasure to the most noble the MARQUIS OF BAGWIG, as one of the kind friends and patrons of his Seminary. He made LORD BUCKRAM a bait for such a multiplicity of pupils, that a new wing was built to Richmond Lodge, and thirty-five new little white dimity beds were added to the establishment. MRS. ROSE used to take out the little Lord in the one-horse chaise with her when she paid visits, until the Rector's lady and the Surgeon's wife almost died with envy. His own son and LORD BUCKRAM having been discovered robbing an orchard together, the Doctor flogged his own flesh and blood most unmercifully for leading the young Lord astray. He parted from him with tears. There was always a letter directed to the Most Noble the MARQUIS OF BAGWIG, on the Doctor's study table, when any visitors were received by him.

At Eton, a great deal of Snobbishness was thrashed out of LORD BUCKRAM, and he was birched with perfect impartiality. Even there, however, a select band of sucking tuft-hunters followed him. YOUNG CRÆSUS lent him three-and-twenty bran new sovereigns out of his father's bank. YOUNG SNAILY did his exercises for him, and tried "to know him at home," but YOUNG BULL licked him in a fight of fifty-five minutes,

and he was caned several times with great advantage for not sufficiently polishing his master, SMITH's, shoes. Boys are not *all* toadies in the morning of life.

But when he went to the University, crowds of toadies sprawled over him. The tutors toadied him. The fellows in hall paid him great clumsy compliments. The Dean never remarked his absence from Chapel, or heard any noise issuing from his rooms. A number of respectable young fellows, (it is among the respectable, the Baker-Street class, that Snob-bishness flourishes, more than among any set of people in England) — a number of these clung to him like leeches. There was no end now to CRÆSUS's loans of money; and BUCKRAM couldn't ride out with the hounds, but SNAILY (a timid creature by nature) was in the field, and would take any leap at which his friend chose to ride. YOUNG ROSE came up to the same College, having been kept back for that express purpose by his father. He spent a quarter's allowance in giving BUCKRAM a single dinner; but he knew there was always pardon for him for extravagance in such a cause; and a ten-pound note always came to him from home when he mentioned BUCKRAM's name in a letter. What wild visions entered the brains of MRS. PODGE and MISS PODGE, the wife and daughter of the Principal of LORD BUCKRAM's College, I don't know, but that reverend old gentleman was too profound a flunky by nature ever for one minute to think that a child of his could marry a nobleman. He therefore hastened on his daughter's union with PROFESSOR CRAB.

When LORD BUCKRAM, after taking his honorary degree, (for Alma Mater is a Snob, too, and truckles to a Lord like the rest,) — when LORD BUCKRAM went abroad to finish his education, you all know what dangers he ran, and what numbers of caps were set at him. LADY LEACH and her daughters followed him from Paris to Rome, and from Rome to Baden-Baden; MISS LEGGIT burst into tears before his face when he announced his determination to quit Naples, and fainted on the neck of her Mamma: CAPTAIN MACDRAGON, of Macdragonstown, county Tipperary, called upon him to

“explene his intintions with respect to his sisther, Miss AMALIA MACDRAGON, of Macdragonstown,” and proposed to shoot him unless he married that spotless and beautiful young creature, who was afterwards led to the altar by Mr. MUFF, at Cheltenham. If perseverance and forty thousand pounds down could have tempted him, Miss LYDIA CRÆSUS would certainly have been LADY BUCKRAM. COUNT TOWROWSKI was glad to take her with half the money, as all the genteel world knows.

And now, perhaps, the reader is anxious to know what sort of a man this is who wounded so many ladies’ hearts, and who has been such a prodigious favourite with men. If we were to describe him it would be personal, and *Punch* notoriously is never so. Besides, it really does not matter in the least what sort of a man he is, or what his personal qualities are.

Suppose he is a young nobleman of a literary turn, and that he published poems ever so foolish and feeble, the Snobs would purchase thousands of his volumes: the publishers (who refused my *Passion-Flowers*, and my grand Epic at any price) would give him his own. Suppose he is a nobleman of a jovial turn, and has a fancy for wrenching off knockers, frequenting gin-shops, and half murdering policemen; the public will sympathise good-naturedly with his amusements, and say he is a hearty, honest fellow. Suppose he is fond of play and the turf, and has a fancy to be a blackleg, and occasionally condescends to pluck a pigeon at cards; the public will pardon him, and many honest people will court him, as they would court a house-breaker, if he happened to be a Lord. Suppose he is an idiot; yet, by the glorious constitution, he’s good enough to govern *us*. Suppose he is an honest, high-minded gentleman; so much the better for himself. But he may be an ass, and yet respected; or a ruffian, and yet be exceedingly popular; or a rogue, and yet excuses will be found for him. Snobs will still worship him. Male Snobs will do him honour, and females look kindly upon him, however hideous he may be.

CHAPTER VI.

On some respectable Snobs.

HAVING received a great deal of obloquy for dragging monarchs, princes, and the respected nobility into the Snob category, I trust to please everybody in the present chapter, by stating my firm opinion that it is among the RESPECTABLE classes of this vast and happy empire that the greatest profusion of Snobs is to be found. I pace down my beloved Baker Street (I am engaged on a life of BAKER, founder of this celebrated Street), I walk in Harley Street (where every other house has a hatchment), Wimpole Street, that is as cheerful as the Catacombs — a dingy Mausoleum of the genteel: — I rove round Regent's Park, where the plaster is patching off the house walls; where Methodist preachers are holding forth to three little children in the green inclosures, and puffy valetudinarians are cantering in the solitary mud: — I thread the doubtful zig-zags of May Fair, where MRS. KITTY LORIMER's Brougham may be seen drawn up next door to old LADY LOLLIPOP's belozenged family coach: — I roam through Belgravia, that pale and polite district, where all the inhabitants look prim and correct, and the mansions are painted a faint whity-brown: I lose myself in the new Squares and Terraces of the brilliant bran-new Bayswater-and-Tyburn-Junction line; and in one and all of these districts the same truth comes across me. I stop before any house at hazard, and say, "O house, you are inhabited — O knocker, you are knocked at — O, undressed flunky, sunning your lazy calves as you lean against the iron railings, you are paid — by Snobs." It is a tremendous thought that; and it is almost sufficient to drive a benevolent mind to madness to think that perhaps there is not one in ten of those houses where the "Peerage" does not lie on the drawing-room table. Considering the harm that foolish lying book does, I would have all the copies of it burned, as the barber burned all Quixote's books of humbugging chivalry.

Look at this grand house in the middle of the square. The EARL OF LOUGHCORRIB lives there: he has fifty thousand a year. A *déjeûner dansant* given at his house last week cost, who knows how much? The mere flowers for the room and bouquets for the ladies cost four hundred pounds. That man in drab trowsers, coming crying down the steps, is a dun: LORD LOUGHCORRIB has ruined him, and won't see him: that is, his lordship is peeping through the blind of his study at him now. Go thy ways, LOUGHCORRIB, thou art a Snob, a heartless pretender, a hypocrite of hospitality; a rogue who passes forged notes upon society; — but I am growing too eloquent.

You see that fine house, No. 23, where a butcher's boy is ringing the area-bell. He has three mutton-chops in his tray. They are for the dinner of a very different and very respectable family; for LADY SUSAN SCRAPER, and her daughters, MISS SCRAPER and MISS EMILY SCRAPER. The domestics, luckily for them, are on board wages — two huge footmen in light blue and canary, a fat steady coachman who is a Methodist, and a butler who would never have staid in the family but that he was orderly to GENERAL SCRAPER when the General distinguished himself at Walcheren. His widow sent his portrait to the United Service Club, and it is hung up in one of the back dressing-closets there. He is represented at a parlour window with red curtains; in the distance is a whirlwind, in which cannon are firing off; and he is pointing to a chart, on which are written the words WALCHEREN, TOBAGO.

LADY SUSAN is, as everybody knows by referring to the "British Bible," a daughter of the great and good EARL BAGWIG before mentioned. She thinks everything belonging to her the greatest and best in the world. The first of men naturally are the BUCKRAMS, her own race: then follow in rank the SCRAPERS. The General was the greatest General: his eldest son, SCRAPER BUCKRAM SCRAPER, is at present the greatest and best; his second son the next greatest and best; and herself the paragon of women.

Indeed, she is a most respectable and honourable lady. She goes to church of course: she would fancy the Church in danger if she did not. She subscribes to the Church and Parish Charities; and is a directress of many meritorious charitable institutions — of QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S Lying-in Hospital — the Washerwomen's Asylum — the British Drummers' Daughters' Home, &c. &c. She is a model of a matron.

The tradesman never lived who could say that his bill was not paid on the quarter-day. The beggars of her neighbourhood avoid her like a pestilence; for when she walks out, protected by JOHN, that domestic has always two or three Mendicity tickets ready for deserving objects. Ten guineas a-year will pay all her charities. There is no respectable lady in all London who gets her name more often printed for such a sum of money.

Those three mutton-chops which you see entering at the kitchen-door will be served on the family-plate at seven o'clock this evening, the huge footman being present, and the butler in black, and the crest and coat-of-arms of the SCRAPERS blazing everywhere. I pity MISS EMILY SCRAPER — she is still young — young and hungry. Is it a fact that she spends her pocket-money in buns? Malicious tongues say so; but she has very little to spare for buns, the poor little hungry soul! For the fact is, that when the footmen, and the lady's maids, and the fat coach-horses, which are jobbed, and the six dinner-parties in the season, and the two great solemn evening-parties, and the rent of the big house, and the journey to an English or foreign watering-place for the autumn, are paid, my lady's income has dwindled away to a very small sum, and she is as poor as you or I.

You would not think it when you saw her big carriage rattling up to the Drawing-room, and caught a glimpse of her plumes, lappets, and diamonds, waving over her ladyship's sandy hair, and majestical hooked nose: — you would not think it when you hear "LADY SUSAN SCRAPER'S carriage" bawled out at midnight so as to disturb all Bellgravia:

— you would not think it when she comes rustling into church, the obsequious John behind with the bag of Prayer-books. Is it possible, you would say, that so grand and awful a personage as that can be hard up for money? Alas! so it is.

She never heard such a word as SNOB, I will engage, in this wicked and vulgar world. And, O stars and garters! how she would start if she heard that she — she, as solemn as MINERVA — she, as chaste as DIANA (without that heathen goddess's unlady-like propensity for field sports) — that she too was a Snob!

A Snob she is, as long as she sets that prodigious value upon herself, upon her name, upon her outward appearance, and indulges in that intolerable pomposity; as long as she goes parading abroad, like SOLOMON, in all his glory; as long as she goes to bed — as I believe she does — with a turban and a bird of Paradise in it, and a court train to her night-gown; as long as she is so insufferably virtuous and condescending; as long as she does not cut at least one of those footmen down into mutton-chops for the benefit of the young ladies.

I had my notions of her from my old school-fellow, — her son SYDNEY SCRAPER — a Chancery barrister without any practice — the most placid, polite, and genteel of Snobs, who never exceeded his allowance of two hundred a-year, and who may be seen any evening at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, simpering over the *Quarterly Review*, in the blameless enjoyment of his half-pint of Port.

CHAPTER VII.

On some respectable Snobs.

LOOK at the next house to LADY SUSAN SCRAPER'S. The first mansion with the awning over the door: that canopy will be let down this evening for the comfort of the friends of SIR ALURED and LADY S. DE MOGYNS, whose parties are so much admired by the public, and the givers themselves.

Peach-coloured liveries laced with silver, and pea-green plush inexpressibles, render the DE MOGYNS' flunkies the pride of the ring when they appear in Hyde Park, where LADY DE MOGYNS, as she sits upon her satin cushions, with her dwarf spaniel in her arms, only bows to the very selectest of the genteel. Times are altered now with MARY ANNE, or, as she calls herself, MARIAN DE MOGYNS.

She was the daughter of CAPTAIN FLACK, of the Rathdrum Fencibles, who crossed with his regiment, over from Ireland to Caermarthenshire ever so many years ago, and defended Wales from the Corsican invader. The Rathdrums were quartered at Pontydwldm, where MARIAN wooed and won her DE MOGYNS, a young banker in the place. His attentions to Miss FLACK at a race ball were such, that her father said DE MOGYNS must either die on the field of honour, or become his son-in-law. He preferred marriage. His name was MUGGINS then, and his father — a flourishing banker, army-contractor, smuggler, and general jobber — almost disinherited him on account of this connexion. There is a story that MUGGINS the Elder was made a baronet for having lent money to a R-y-l p-rs-n-ge. I do not believe it. The R-y-l Family always paid their debts, from the PRINCE of WALES downwards.

Howbeit, to his life's end he remained simple SIR THOMAS MUGGINS, representing Pontydwldm in Parliament for many years after the war. The old banker died in course of time, and, to use the affectionate phrase common on such occasions, "cut up" prodigiously well. His son, ALFRED SMITH MOGYNS, succeeded to the main portion of his wealth, and to his titles and the bloody hands of his scutcheon. It was not for many years after that he appeared as SIR ALURED MOGYNS SMYTH DE MOGYNS, with a genealogy found out for him by the Editor of *Fluke's Peerage*, and which appears as follows in that work: —

"DE MOGYNS. SIR ALURED MOGYNS SMYTH, 2nd Baronet. This gentleman is a representative of one of the most ancient families of Wales, who trace their descent until it is lost in the mists of antiquity.

A genealogical tree beginning with **SNEM** is in the possession of the family, and is stated by a legend of many thousand years date to have been drawn on papyrus by a grandson of the patriarch himself. Be this as it may, there can be no doubt of the immense antiquity of the race of **MOGYNS**.

"In the time of **BOADICEA**, **HOGYN MOGYN**, of the hundred **BREVES**, was a suitor and a rival of **CARACTACUS** for the hand of that Princess. He was a person gigantic in stature, and was slain by **SURTONIUS** in the battle which terminated the liberties of Britain. From him descended directly the **PRINCES OF PONTYDWDLM**. **MOGYN** of the Golden Harp, (see the *Mabinogion* of **LADY CHARLOTTE GUEST**), **BOGYN-MERODAC-AP-MOGYN**, (the black fiend son of **MOGYN**), and a long list of bards and warriors, celebrated both in Wales and Armorica. The independent Princes of **MOGYN** long held out against the ruthless Kings of England, until finally **GAM MOGYNS** made his submission to **PRINCE HENRY**, son of **HENRY IV.**, and under the name of **SIR DAVID GAM DE MOGYNS**, was distinguished at the battle of Agincourt. From him the present Baronet is descended. (And here the descent follows in order until it comes to) **THOMAS MUGGINS**, first Baronet of Pontydwldm Castle, for 23 years Member of Parliament for that borough, who had issue, **ALURED MOGYNS SMYTH**, the present Baronet, who married **MARIAN**, daughter of the late **GENERAL P. FLACK**, of Ballyflack, in the Kingdom of Ireland, of the Counts Flack of the H. R. Empire. **SIR ALURED** has issue, **ALURED CARADOC**, born 1819, **MARIAN**, 1811, **BLANCHE ADELIZA**, **EMILY DORIA**, **ADELAIDE OBLEANS**, **KATINKA ROSTOPCHIN**, **PATRICK FLACK**, died 1809.

"Arms — a mullion garbled, gules on a saltire reversed of the second. Crest — a tom-tit rampant regardant. Motto — *Ung Roy ung Mogyns.*"

It was long before **LADY DE MOGYNS** shone as a star in the fashionable world. At first, poor **MUGGINS** was in the hands of the **FLACKS**, the **CLANCYS**, the **TOOLES**, the **SHANAHANS**, his wife's Irish relations; and whilst he was yet but heir apparent, his house overflowed with claret and the national nectar, for the benefit of his Hibernian relatives. **TOM TUFTO** absolutely left the street in which they lived in London, because, he said, "it was infected with such a confounded smell of whiskey from the house of those *Iwish* people."

It was abroad that they learned to be genteel. They pushed into all foreign courts, and elbowed their way into the balls of Ambassadors. They pounced upon the stray nobility, and seized young lords travelling with their bear leaders.

They gave parties at Naples, Rome, and Paris. They got a Royal Prince to attend their *soirées* at the latter place, and it was here that they first appeared under the name of DE MOGYNS, which they bear with such splendour to this day.

All sorts of stories are told of the desperate efforts made by the indomitable LADY DE MOGYNS to gain the place she now occupies, and those of my beloved readers who live in middle life, and are unacquainted with the frantic struggles, the wicked feuds, the intrigues, cabals, and disappointments which, as I am given to understand, reign in the fashionable world, may bless their stars that they at least are not *fashionable* Snobs. The intrigues set afoot by the DE MOGYNS, to get the DUCHESS OF BUCKSKIN to her parties, would strike a TALLEYRAND with admiration. She had a brain fever after being disappointed of an invitation to LADY ALDERMANBURY's *thé dansant*, and would have committed suicide but for a ball at Windsor. I have the following story from my noble friend LADY CLAPPERCLAW herself, — LADY KATHLEEN O'SHAUGHNESSY that was, and daughter of the EARL OF TURFANTHUNDER: —

“When that ojoues disguised Irishwoman, LADY MUGGINS, was struggling to take her place in the world, and was bringing out her hidjous daughter BLANCHE,” said old LADY CLAPPERCLAW “(MARIAN has a hump-back and doesn't show, but she's the only lady in the family) — when that wretched POLLY MUGGINS was bringing out BLANCHE, with her radish of a nose, and her carrots of ringlets, and her turnip for a face, she was most anxious — as her father had been a cow-boy on my father's land — to be patronised by us, and asked me point-blank, in the midst of a silence at COUNT VOLAUVENTS, the French Ambassador's dinner, why I had not sent her a card for my ball?

“‘Because my rooms are already too full, and your ladyship would be crowded inconveniently,’ says I; indeed she takes up as much room as an elephant; besides, I wouldn't have her, and that was flat.

"I thought my answer was a settler to her: but the next day she comes weeping to my arms — 'Dear LADY CLAPPERCLAW,' says she, 'it's not for *me*; I ask it for my blessed BLANCHE! a young creature in her first season, and not at your ball! My tender child will pine and die of vexation. I don't want to come. I will stay at home to nurse SIR ALURED in the gout. MRS. BOLSTER is going, I know; she will be BLANCHE's Chaperon.'

" 'You wouldn't subscribe for the Rathdrum blanket and potato fund; you, who come out of the parish,' says I, 'and whose grandfather, honest man, kept cows there.'

" 'Will twenty guineas be enough, dearest LADY CLAPPERCLAW?

" 'Twenty guineas is sufficient,' says I, and she paid them; so I said, 'BLANCHE may come, but not you, mind;' and she left me with a world of thanks.

" 'Would you believe it? — when my ball came the horrid woman made her appearance with her daughter! 'Didn't I tell you not to come?' said I, in a mighty passion. 'What would the world have said?' cries my LADY MUGGINS; 'my carriage is gone for Sir ALURED to the Club; let me stay only ten minutes, dearest LADY CLAPPERCLAW.'

" 'Well, as you are here, Madam, you may stay and get your supper,' I answered, and so left her, and never spoke a word more to her all night.

" 'And now,' screamed out old LADY CLAPPERCLAW, clapping her hands, and speaking with more brogue than ever, 'what do you think, after all my kindness to her, the wicked, vulgar, odious, impudent upstart of a cowboy's granddaughter, has done? — she cut me yesterday in Hy' Park, and hasn't sent me a ticket for her ball to-night, though they say PRINCE GEORGE is to be there.'

Yes, such is the fact. In the race of fashion the resolute and active DE MOGYNS has passed the poor old CLAPPERCLAW. Her progress in gentility may be traced by the sets of friends whom she has courted, and made, and cut, and left

behind her. She has struggled so gallantly for polite reputation that she has won it; pitilessly kicking down the ladder as she advanced, degree by degree.

Her Irish relations were first sacrificed; she made her father dine in the Steward's room, to his perfect contentment; and would send SIR ALURED thither likewise, but that he is a peg on which she hopes to hang her future honours; and is, after all, paymaster of her daughters' fortunes. He is meek and content. He has been so long a gentleman that he is used to it, and acts the part of Governor very well. In the day-time he goes from the Union to Arthur's, and from Arthur's to the Union. He is a dead hand at picquet, and loses a very comfortable maintenance to some young fellows, at whist, at the Traveller's.

His son has taken his father's seat in Parliament, and has of course joined young England. He is the only man in the country who believes in the DE MOGYNSES, and sighs for the days when a DE MOGYNS led the van of battle. He has written a little volume of spoony puny poems. He wears a lock of the hair of LAUD, the Confessor and Martyr, and fainted when he kissed the POPE's toe at Rome. He sleeps in white kid gloves, and commits dangerous excesses upon green tea.

CHAPTER VIII.

Great City Snobs.

THERE is no disguising the fact that this series of papers is making a prodigious sensation among all classes in this Empire. Notes of admiration (!), of interrogation (?), of remonstrance, approval, or abuse, come pouring into *Mr. Punch's* box. We have been called to task for betraying the secrets of three different families of DE MOGYNS; no less than four LADY SUSAN SCRAPERS have been discovered; and young gentlemen are quite shy of ordering half-a-pint of port and simpering over the *Quarterly Review* at the Club, lest they

should be mistaken for SYDNEY SCRAPER, ESQ. "What *can* be your antipathy to Baker Street?" asks some fair remonstrant, evidently writing from that quarter. — "Why only attack the aristocratic Snobs?" says one estimable correspondent; "are not the snobbish Snobs to have their turn?" — "Pitch into the University Snobs!" writes an indignant gentleman (who spells elegant with two l's.) — "Show up the Clerical Snob," suggests another. — "Being at MEURICE'S Hotel, Paris, some time since," some wag hints, "I saw LORD B., leaning out of the window with his boots in his hand, and bawling out, '*Garçon, cirez-moi ces bottes.*' Oughtn't he to be brought in among the Snobs?"

No; far from it. If his lordship's boots are dirty, it is because he is LORD B., and walks. There is nothing snobbish in having only one pair of boots, or a favourite pair; and certainly nothing snobbish in desiring to have them clean. LORD B., in so doing, performed a perfectly natural and gentleman-like action; for which I am so pleased with him that I have had him designed in a favourable and elegant attitude.

Great City Snobs are the next in the hierarchy, and ought to be considered. But here is a difficulty. The great City Snob is commonly most difficult of access. Unless you are a capitalist, you cannot visit him in the recesses of his bank parlour in Lombard Street. Unless you are a sprig of nobility, there is little hope of seeing him at home. In a great City Snob firm there is generally one partner whose name is down for charities, and who frequents Exeter Hall; you may catch a glimpse of another (a scientific City Snob) at my LORD N—'s *soirées*, or the lectures of the London Institution; of a third, (a City Snob of taste), at picture-auctions, at private views of exhibitions, or at the Opera or the Philharmonic. But intimacy is impossible, in most cases, with this grave, pompous, and awful being.

A mere gentleman may hope to sit at almost anybody's table — to take his place at my lord duke's in the country — to dance a quadrille at Buckingham Palace itself — (beloved

LADY WILHELMINA WAGGLEWIGGLE! do you recollect the sensation we made at the ball of our late adored Sovereign QUEEN CAROLINE, at Brandenburgh House, Hammersmith?) but the City Snob's doors are for the most part closed to him; and hence all that one knows of this great class is mostly from hearsay.

In other countries of Europe, the Banking Snob is more expansive and communicative than with us, and receives all the world into his circle. For instance, everybody knows the princely hospitalities of the SCHARLASCHILD family at Paris, Naples, Frankfort, &c. They entertain all the world, even the poor, at their *fêtes*. PRINCE POLONIA, at Rome, and his brother, the DUKE OF STRACHINO, are also remarkable for their hospitalities. I like the spirit of the first-named nobleman. Titles not costing much in the Roman territory, he has had the head clerk of the banking-house made a Marquis, and his Lordship will screw a *bajocco* out of you in exchange as dexterously as any commoner could do. It is a comfort to be able to gratify such grandees with a farthing or two, it makes the poorest man feel that he can do good. The POLONIAS have intermarried with the greatest and most ancient families of Rome, and you see their heraldic cognisance (a mushroom *or* on an azure field) quartered in a hundred places in the city, with the arms of the COLONNAS and DORIAS.

Our City Snobs have the same mania of aristocratic marriages. I like to see such. I am of a savage and envious nature, — I like to see these two humbugs which, dividing, as they do, the social empire of this kingdom between them, hate each other naturally — making truce and uniting — for the sordid interests of either. I like to see an old aristocrat swelling with pride of race, the descendant of illustrious Norman robbers, whose blood has been pure for centuries, and who looks down on common Englishmen as a free-born American does on a nigger, — I like to see old STIFFNECK obliged to bow down his head and swallow his infernal pride, and drink the cup of humiliation poured out by PUMP and

ALDGATE's butler. "PUMP and ALDGATE," says he, "your grandfather was a bricklayer, and his hod is still kept in the bank. Your pedigree begins in a workhouse; mine can be dated from all the royal palaces of Europe. I came over with the Conqueror: I am own cousin to CHARLES MARTEL, ORLANDO FURIOSO, PHILIP AUGUSTUS, PETER THE CRUEL, and FREDERIC BARBAROSSA. I quarter the Royal Arms of BRENTFORD in my coat. I despise you, but I want money; and I will sell you my beloved daughter, BLANCHE STIFF-NECK, for a hundred thousand pounds, to pay off my mortgages. Let your son marry her, and she shall become LADY BLANCHE PUMP and ALDGATE."

Old PUMP and ALDGATE clutches at the bargain. And a comfortable thing it is to think that birth can be bought for money. So you learn to value it. Why should we, who don't possess it, set a higher store on it than those who do? Perhaps the best use of that book, the Peerage, is to look down the list, and see how many have bought and sold birth, — how poor sprigs of nobility somehow sell themselves to rich City Snobs' daughters, how rich City Snobs purchase noble ladies — and so to admire the double baseness of the bargain.

Old PUMP and ALDGATE buys the article, and pays the money. The sale of the girl's person is blessed by a Bishop at St. George's, Hanover Square, and next year you read, "At Roehampton, on Saturday, the LADY BLANCHE PUMP, of a son and heir."

After this interesting event, some old acquaintance, who saw young PUMP in the parlour at the bank in the City, said to him, familiarly, "How's your wife, PUMP, my boy?"

MR. PUMP looked exceedingly puzzled and disgusted, and, after a pause, said, "*Lady Blanche Pump* is pretty well, I thank you."

"O, I thought she was your wife!" said that familiar brute, SNOOKS, wishing him good-by; and ten minutes after, the story was all over the Stock Exchange, where it is told, when young PUMP appears, to this very day.

We can imagine the weary life this poor PUMP, this martyr to MAMMON, is compelled to undergo. Fancy the domestic enjoyments of a man who has a wife who scorns him; who cannot see his own friends in his own house; who having deserted the middle rank of life, is not yet admitted to the higher; but who is resigned to rebuffs and delay and humiliation, contented to think that his son will be more fortunate.

It used to be the custom of some very old-fashioned clubs in this city, when a gentleman asked for change for a guinea, always to bring it to him in *washed silver*: that which had passed immediately out of the hands of the vulgar being considered "as too coarse to soil a gentleman's fingers." So, when the City Snob's money has been washed during a generation or so; has been washed into estates, and woods, and castles and town-mansions; it is allowed to pass current as real aristocratic coin. Old PUMP sweeps a shop, runs of messages, becomes a confidential clerk and partner. PUMP THE SECOND becomes chief of the house, spins more and more money, marries his son to an Earl's daughter. PUMP TERTIUS goes on with the bank; but his chief business in life is to become the father of PUMP QUARTUS, who comes out a full-blown aristocrat, and takes his seat as BARON PUMPINGTON, and his race rules hereditarily over this nation of Snobs.

CHAPTER IX.

On some Military Snobs.

As no society in the world is more agreeable than that of well-bred and well-informed military gentlemen, so likewise, none is more insufferable than that of Military Snobs. They are to be found of all grades, from the General Officer, whose padded old breast twinkles over with a score of stars, clasps, and decorations, to the budding Cornet, who is shaving for a beard, and has just been appointed to the Saxe Coburg Lancers.

I have always admired that dispensation of rank in our country, which sets up this last-named little creature (who was flogged only last week because he could not spell) to command great whiskered warriors, who have faced all dangers of climate and battle; which, because he has money to lodge at the agent's, will place him over the heads of men who have a thousand times more experience and desert; and which, in the course of time, will bring him all the honours of his profession, when the veteran soldier he commanded has got no other reward for his bravery than a berth in Chelsea Hospital, and the veteran officer he superseded has slunk into shabby retirement, and ends his disappointed life on a threadbare half-pay.

When I read in the Gazette such announcements as "LIEUTENANT and CAPTAIN GRIG, from the Bombardier Guards, to be Captain, vice GRIZZLE, who retires," I know what becomes of the Peninsular GRIZZLE; I follow him in spirit to the humble country town, where he takes up his quarters, and occupies himself with the most desperate attempts to live like a gentleman, on the stipend of half a tailor's foreman; and I picture to myself little GRIG rising from rank to rank, skipping from one regiment to another, with an increased grade in each, avoiding disagreeable foreign service, and ranking as a Colonel at thirty; — all because he has money, and LORD GRIGSBY is his father, who had the same luck before him. GRIG must blush at first to give his orders to old men in every way his betters. And as it is very difficult for a spoiled child to escape being selfish and arrogant, so it is a very hard task indeed for this spoiled child of Fortune not to be a Snob.

It must have often been a matter of wonder to the candid reader, that the Army, the most enormous Job of all our political institutions, should yet work so well in the field; and we must cheerfully give GRIG, and his like, the credit for courage which they display whenever occasion calls for it. The DUKE's dandy regiments fought as well as any (they said better than any, but that is absurd.) The great DUKE himself was a dandy once, and jobbed on, as MARLBOROUGH did before him. But

this only proves that dandies are brave as well as other Britons — as all Britons. Let us concede that the high-born GRIG rode into the entrenchments at Sabraon as gallantly as CORPORAL WALLOP, the ex-ploughboy.

The times of war are more favourable to him than the periods of peace. Think of GRIG's life in the Bombardier Guards, or the Jackboot Guards; his marches from Windsor to London, from London to Windsor, from Knightsbridge to Regent's Park; the idiotic services he has to perform, which consist in inspecting the pipeclay of his company, or the horses in the stable, or bellowing out "Shoulder humps! Carry humps!" all which duties the very smallest intellect that ever belonged to mortal man suffice to comprehend. The professional duties of a footman are quite as difficult and various. The red-jackets who hold gentlemen's horses in St. James's Street could do the work just as well as those vacuous, good-natured, gentleman-like, rickety little Lieutenants, who may be seen sauntering about Pall Mall, in high-heeled little boots, or rallying round the standard of their regiment in the Palace Court, at eleven o'clock, when the band plays. Did the beloved reader ever see one of the young fellows staggering under the flag, or, above all, going through the operation of saluting it? It is worth a walk to the Palace to witness that magnificent piece of tom-foolery.

I have had the honour of meeting once or twice an old gentleman, whom I look upon to be a specimen of army-training, and who has served in crack regiments, or commanded them, all his life. I allude to LIEUTENANT-GENERAL THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE GRANBY TUFTO, K. C. B., K. T. S., K. H., K. S. W., &c., &c. His manners are irreproachable generally; in society he is a perfect gentleman, and a most thorough Snob.

A man can't help being a fool, be he ever so old, and SIR GEORGE is a greater ass at sixty-eight than he was when he first entered the army at fifteen. He distinguished himself everywhere: his name is mentioned with praise in a score of Gazettes: he is the man, in fact, whose padded breast, twinkling

over with innumerable decorations, has already been introduced to the reader. It is difficult to say what virtues this prosperous gentleman possesses. He never read a book in his life, and, with his purple, old gouty fingers, still writes a school-boy hand. He has reached old age and grey hairs without being the least venerable. He dresses like an outrageously young man to the present moment, and laces and pads his old carcass as if he were still handsome GEORGE TUFTO of 1800. He is selfish, brutal, passionate, and a glutton. It is curious to mark him at table, and see him heaving in his waistband, his little bloodshot eyes gloating over his meal. He swears considerably in his talk, and tells filthy garrison stories after dinner. On account of his rank and his services, people pay the bestarred and betitled old brute a sort of reverence; and he looks down upon you and me, and exhibits his contempt for us, with a stupid and artless candour, which is quite amusing to watch. Perhaps, had he been bred to another profession, he would not have been the disreputable old creature he now is. But what other? He was fit for none; too incorrigibly idle and dull for any trade but this, in which he has distinguished himself publicly as a good and gallant officer, and privately for riding races, drinking port, fighting duels, and seducing women. He believes himself to be one of the most honourable and deserving beings in this world. About Waterloo Place, of afternoons, you may see him tottering in his varnished boots, and leering under the bonnets of the women who pass by. When he dies of apoplexy, the *Times* will have a quarter of a column about his services and battles — four lines of print will be wanted to describe his titles and orders alone — and the earth will cover one of the wickedest and dullest old wretches that ever strutted over it.

Lest it should be imagined that I am of so obstinate a misanthropic nature as to be satisfied with nothing, I beg (for the comfort of the forces) to state my belief that the Army is not composed of such persons as the above. He has only been selected for the study of civilians and the military, as a specimen of a prosperous and bloated army Snob. No: when epau-

lets are not sold; when corporal punishments are abolished, and CORPORAL SMITH has a chance to have his gallantry rewarded as well as that of LIEUTENANT GRIG; when there is no such rank as Ensign and Lieutenant, (the existence of which rank is an absurd anomaly, and an insult upon all the rest of the army), and should there be no war, I should not be disinclined to be a Major-General myself.

I have a little sheaf of Army-Snobs in my portfolio, but shall pause in my attack upon the forces until next week.

CHAPTER X.

Military Snobs.

WALKING in the Park yesterday with my young friend TAGG, and discoursing with him upon the next number of the Snob, at the very nick of time who should pass us but two very good specimens of Military Snobs, — the Sporting Military Snob, CAPTAIN RAG, and the “larking,” or raffish Military Snob, ENSIGN FAMISH. Indeed you are fully sure to meet them lounging on horseback, about five o’clock, under the trees by the Serpentine, examining critically the inmates of the flashy broughams which parade up and down “The Lady’s Mile.”

TAGG and RAG are very well acquainted, and so the former, with that candour inseparable from intimate friendship, told me his dear friend’s history. CAPTAIN RAG is a small dapper north-country man. He went when quite a boy into a crack light cavalry regiment, and by the time he got his troop, had cheated all his brother-officers so completely, selling them lame horses for sound ones, and winning their money by all manner of strange and ingenious contrivances, that his Colonel advised him to retire, which he did without much reluctance, accommodating a youngster, who just entered the regiment, with a glandered charger at an uncommonly stiff figure.

He has since devoted his time to billiards, steeple-chasing, and the turf. His head quarters are RUMMER’S, in Conduit Street, where he keeps his kit, but he is ever on the move in

the exercise of his vocation as a gentleman jockey and gentleman leg.

According to *Bell's Life*, he is an invariable attendant at all races, and an actor in most of them. He rode the winner at Leamington; he was left for dead in a ditch a fortnight ago at Harrow; and yet there he was, last week, at the Croix de Berny, pale and determined as ever, astonishing the *badauds* of Paris by the elegance of his seat and the neatness of his rig, as he took a preliminary gallop on that vicious brute, "The Disowned," before starting for "the Trench Grand National."

He is a regular attendant at the Corner, where he compiles a limited but comfortable libretto. During the season, he rides often in the Park, mounted on a clever, well-bred pony. He is to be seen escorting that celebrated horsewoman, FANNY HIGHFLYER, or in confidential converse with LORD THIMBLERIG, the eminent handicapper.

He carefully avoids decent society, and would rather dine off a steak at the One Tun with SAM SNAFFLE the jockey, CAPTAIN O'ROURKE, and two or three other notorious turf robbers, than with the choicest company in London. He likes to announce at RUMMER'S that he is going to run down and spend his Saturday and Sunday in a friendly way with HOCUS, the leg, at his little box near Epsom, where, if report speak true, many "rummish plants" are concocted.

He does not play billiards often, and never in public: but when he does play, he always contrives to get hold of a good flat, and never leaves him till he has done him uncommonly brown. He has lately been playing a good deal with FAMISH.

When he makes his appearance in the drawing-room, which occasionally happens at a hunt-meeting or a race-ball, he enjoys himself extremely.

His young friend is ENSIGN FAMISH, who is not a little pleased to be seen with such a smart fellow as RAG, who bows to the best turf company in the Park. RAG lets FAMISH accompany him to TATTERSALL'S, and sells him bargains in horse-

flesh, and uses FAMISH's cab. That young gentleman's regiment is in India, and he is at home on sick leave. He recruits his health by being intoxicated every night, and fortifies his lungs, which are weak, by smoking cigars all day. The policemen about the Haymarket know the little creature, and the early cabmen salute him. The closed doors of fish and lobster shops open after service, and vomit out little FAMISH, who is either tipsy and quarrelsome—when he wants to fight the cabmen, or drunk and helpless, when some kind friend (in yellow satin) takes care of him. All the neighbourhood, the cabmen, the police, the early potato-men, and the friends in yellow satin, know the young fellow, and he is called Little BOBBY by some of the very worst reprobates in Europe.

His mother, LADY FANNY FAMISH, believes devotedly that ROBERT is in London solely for the benefit of consulting the physician; is going to have him exchanged into a dragoon regiment, which doesn't go to that odious India; and has an idea that his chest is delicate, and that he takes gruel every evening, when he puts his feet in hot water. Her Ladyship resides at Cheltenham, and is of a serious turn.

BOBBY frequents the Union-Jack Club of course; where he breakfasts on pale ale and devilled kidneys at three o'clock; where beardless young heroes of his own sort congregate, and make merry, and give each other dinners; where you may see half-a-dozen of young rakes of the fourth or fifth order lounging and smoking on the steps; where you behold SLAPPER's long-tailed leggy mare in the custody of a red-jacket until the Captain is primed for the Park with a glass of curaçoa: and where you see HOBBY, of the Highland Buffs, driving up with DOBBY, of the Madras Fusiliers, in the great banging, swinging cab, which the latter hires from RUMBLE of Bond Street.

In fact, Military Snobs are of such number and variety, that a hundred weeks of *Punch* would not suffice to give an audience to them. There is, besides the disreputable old Military Snob who has seen service, the respectable old Military Snob, who has seen none, and gives himself the most prodigious Martinet-airs. There is the Medical-Military Snob,

who is generally more outrageously military in his conversation than the greatest *sabreur* in the army. There is the Heavy-Dragoon Snob, whom young ladies admire, with his great stupid pink face and yellow moustachios — a vacuous, solemn, foolish, but brave and honourable Snob. There is the Amateur-Military Snob, who writes Captain on his cards because he is a Lieutenant in the Bungay Militia. There is the Lady-killing Military Snob; and more, who need not be named.

But let no man, we repeat, charge *Mr. Punch* with disrespect for the Army in general — that gallant and judicious Army, every man of which, from F. M. THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, &c., downwards — (with the exception of H. R. H. FIELD-MARSHAL PRINCE ALBERT, who, however, can hardly count as a military man,) reads *Punch* in every quarter of the globe.

Let those civilians who sneer at the acquirements of the Army read SIR HARRY SMITH'S account of the Battle of Aliwal. A noble deed was never told in nobler language. And you who doubt if chivalry exists, or the age of heroism has passed by — think of Sir HENRY HARDINGE, with his son, "dear little AUTHUR," riding in front of the line at Ferozeshah. I hope no English painter will endeavour to illustrate that scene; for who is there to do justice to it! The history of the world contains no more brilliant and heroic picture. No, no; the men who perform these deeds with such brilliant valour, and describe them with such modest manliness — *such* are not Snobs. Their country admires them, their Sovereign rewards them, and *Punch*, the universal railer, takes off his hat and says, Heaven save them!

CHAPTER XI.

On Clerical Snobs.

AFTER Snobs-Military, Snobs-Clerical suggest themselves quite naturally, and it is clear that, with every respect for the cloth, yet having a regard for truth, humanity, and the British public, such a vast and influential class must not be omitted from our notices of the great Snob world.

Of these Clerics there are some whose claim to snob-bishness is undoubted, and yet it cannot be discussed here; for the same reason that *Punch* would not set up his show in a Cathedral, out of respect for the solemn service celebrated within. There are some places where he acknowledges himself not privileged to make a noise, and puts away his show, and silences his drum, and takes off his hat, and holds his peace.

And I know this, that if there are some Clerics who do wrong, there are straightway a thousand newspapers to haul up those unfortunates, and cry, Fie upon them, fie upon them! while, though the press is always ready to yell and bellow ex-communication against these stray delinquent parsons, it somehow takes very little count of the many good ones — of the tens of thousands of honest men, who lead Christian lives, who give to the poor generously, who deny themselves rigidly, and live and die in their duty, without ever a newspaper paragraph in their favour. My beloved friend and reader, I wish you and I could do the same: and let me whisper my belief, *entre nous*, that of those eminent philosophers who cry out against parsons the loudest, there are not many who have got their knowledge of the church by going thither often.

But you who have ever listened to village bells, or have walked to church as children on sunny Sabbath mornings; you who have ever seen the parson's wife tending the poor man's bedside; or the town clergyman threading the dirty stairs of noxious alleys upon his sacred business; — do not raise a shout

when one of these falls away, or yell with the mob that howls after him.

Every man can do that. When old FATHER NOAH was overtaken in his cups, there was only one of his sons that dared to make merry at his disaster, and he was not the most virtuous of the family. Let us too turn away silently, nor huzza like a parcel of school-boys, because some big young rebel suddenly starts up and whaps the schoolmaster.

I confess, though, if I had by me the names of those seven or eight Irish Bishops, the probates of whose wills were mentioned in last year's journals, and who died leaving behind them some two hundred thousand pounds a-piece — I would like to put *them* up as patrons of my Clerical Snobs, and operate upon them as successfully as I see from the newspapers MR. EISENBERG, Chiropodist, has lately done upon "HIS GRACE THE RIGHT REVEREND LORD BISHOP OF TAPIOCA."

And I confess, that when those Right Reverend Prelates come up to the gates of Paradise with their probates of wills in their hands, I confess I think that their chance is * * * * But the gates of Paradise is a far way to follow their Lordships; so let us trip down again, lest awkward questions be asked there about our own favourite vices too.

And don't let us give way to the vulgar prejudice, that clergymen are an over-paid and luxurious body of men. When that eminent ascetic, the late SYDNEY SMITH — (by the way, by what law of nature is it that so many SMITHS in this world are called SYDNEY SMITH?) — lauded the system of great prizes in the Church, — without which he said gentlemen would not be induced to follow the clerical profession; he admitted most pathetically that the Clergy in general were by no means to be envied for their worldly prosperity. From reading the works of some modern writers of repute, you would fancy that a parson's life was passed in gorging himself

with plum-pudding and portwine; and that his Reverence's fat chaps were always greasy with the crackling of tithe pigs. Caricaturists delight to represent him so; round, short-necked, pimple-faced, apoplectic, bursting out of waistcoat, like a black-pudding, a shovel-hatted fuzz-wigged SILENUS. Whereas, if you take the real man, the poor fellow's flesh-pots are very scantily furnished with meat. He labours commonly for a wage that a tailor's foreman would despise: he has, too, such claims upon his dismal income as most philosophers would rather grumble to meet; many tithes are levied upon *his* pocket, let it be remembered, by those who grudge him his means of livelihood. He has to dine with the Squire; and his wife must dress neatly; and he must "look like a gentleman," as they call it, and bring up his six great hungry sons as such. Add to this, if he does his duty, he has such temptations to spend his money as no mortal man could withstand. Yes; you who can't resist purchasing a chest of cigars, because they are so good; or an or-molu clock at HOWELL and JAMES'S, because it is such a bargain; or a box at the Opera, because LABLACHE and GRISI are divine in the *Puritani*; fancy how difficult it is for a parson to resist spending a half-crown when JOHN BREAKSTONE'S family are without a loaf; or "standing" a bottle of port for poor POLLY RABBITS, who has her thirteenth child; or treating himself to a suit of corduroys for little BOB SCARECROW, whose breeches are sadly out at elbows. Think of these temptations, brother moralists and philosophers, and don't be too hard on the parson.

But what is this? Instead of "showing up" the parsons, are we indulging in maudlin praises of that monstrous black-coated race? O saintly FRANCIS, lying at rest under the turf; O JIMMY, and JOHNNY, and WILLY, friends of my youth! O noble and dear old ELIAS! how should he who knows you, not respect you and your calling? May this pen never write a pennyworth again, if it ever cast ridicule upon either!

CHAPTER XII.

On Clerical Snobs and Snobbishness.

"DEAR MR. SNOB," an amiable young correspondent writes, who signs himself SNOBLING, "ought the clergyman who, at the request of a noble Duke, lately interrupted a marriage ceremony between two persons perfectly authorised to marry, to be ranked or not among the Clerical Snobs?"

This, my dear young friend, is not a fair question. One of the illustrated weekly papers has already seized hold of the clergyman, and blackened him most unmercifully, be representing him in his cassock performing the marriage service. Let that be sufficient punishment; and, if you please, do not press the query.

It is very likely that if MISS SMITH had come with a license to marry JONES, the parson in question, not seeing old SMITH present, would have sent off the beadle in a cab to let the old gentleman know what was going on; and would have delayed the service until the arrival of SMITH Senior. He very likely thinks it his duty to ask *all* marriageable young ladies, who come without their papa, why their parent is absent; and, no doubt, *always* sends off the beadle for that missing governor.

Or, it is very possible that the DUKE OF CŒURDELION was MR. WHATDYECALLUM's most intimate friend, and has often said to him, "WHATDYECALLUM, my boy, my daughter must never marry the Captaining. If ever they try at your church, I beseech you, considering the terms of intimacy on which we are, to send off RATTAN in a hackcab to fetch me."

In either of which cases, you see, dear SNOBLING, that though the parson would not have been authorised, yet he might have been excused for interfering. He has no more right to stop my marriage than to stop my dinner, to both of which, as a free-born Briton, I am entitled by law, if I can pay for them. But, consider pastoral solicitude, a deep sense of the duties of his office, and pardon this inconvenient, but genuine zeal.

But if the clergyman did in the Duke's case what he would *not* do in SMITH's; if he has no more acquaintance with the CŒURDELION family than I have with the Royal and Serene House of SAXE-COBURG GOTHA, — *then*, I confess, my dear SNOBLING, your question might elicit a disagreeable reply, and one which I respectfully decline to give. I wonder what SIR GEORGE TUFTO would say, if a sentry left his post because a noble lord (not in the least connected with the service) begged the sentinel not to do his duty?

Alas! that the beadle who canes little boys and drives them out, cannot drive worldliness out too; and what is worldliness but Snobbishness? When, for instance, I read in the newspapers that the RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD CHARLES JAMES administered the rite of confirmation to *a party of the juvenile nobility* at the Chapel Royal, — as if the Chapel Royal were a sort of ecclesiastical ALMACK's, and young people were to get ready for the next world in little exclusive genteel knots of the aristocracy, who were not to be disturbed in their journey thither by the company of the vulgar: — when I read such a paragraph as that (and one or two such generally appear during the present fashionable season), it seems to me to be the most odious, mean, and disgusting part of that odious, mean, and disgusting publication, the *Court Circular*; and that Snobbishness is therein carried to quite an awful pitch. What, gentlemen, can't we even in the Church acknowledge a republic? There, at least, the Heralds' College itself might allow that we all of us have the same pedigree, and are direct descendants of EVE and ADAM, whose inheritance is divided amongst us.

I hereby call upon all Dukes, Earls, Baronets, and other potentates, not to lend themselves to this shameful scandal and error, and beseech all Bishops, who read this publication, to take the matter into consideration, and to protest against the continuance of the practice, and to declare, "We *won't* confirm or christen LORD TOMNODDY, or SIR CARNABY JENKS, to the exclusion of any other young Christian;" the which declaration, if their Lordships are induced to make, a

great *lapis offensionis* will be removed, and the Snob Papers will not have been written in vain.

A story is current of a celebrated *nouveau-riche*, who having had occasion to oblige that excellent prelate the BISHOP OF BULLOCKSMITHY, asked his Lordship in return, to confirm his children privately in his Lordship's own chapel; which ceremony the grateful prelate accordingly performed. Can satire go farther than this? Is there even in this most amusing of prints, any more *naïve* absurdity? It is as if a man wouldn't go to heaven unless he went in a special train, or as if he thought (as some people think about vaccination) Confirmation more effectual when administered at first hand. When that eminent person, the BEGUM SUMROO, died, it is said she left ten thousand pounds to the Pope, and ten thousand to the ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, — so that there should be no mistake, — so as to make sure of having the ecclesiastical authorities on her side. This is only a little more openly and undisguisedly Snobbish than the cases before alluded to. A well-bred Snob is just as secretly proud of his riches and honours as a *parvenu* Snob who makes the most ludicrous exhibition of them; and a high-born Marchioness or Duchess just as vain of herself and her diamonds, as QUEEN QUASHYBOO, who sews a pair of epaulets on to her skirt, and turns out in state in a cocked hat and feathers.

It is not out of disrespect to my peerage, which I love and honour, (indeed, have I not said before, that I should be ready to jump out of my skin if two Dukes would walk down Pall Mall with me?) — it is not out of disrespect for the individuals, that I wish these titles had never been invented; but, consider, if there were no tree, there would be no shadow; and how much more honest society would be, and how much more serviceable the clergy would be (which is our present consideration) if these temptations of rank and continual baits of worldliness were not in existence, and perpetually thrown out to lead them astray.

I have seen many examples of their falling away. When, for instance, TOM SNIFFLE first went into the country as Cu-

rate for Mr. FUDDLESTONE, (SIR HUDDLESTONE FUDDLESTONE's brother,) who resided on some other living, there could not be a more kind, hard-working, and excellent creature, than TOM. He had his aunt to live with him. His conduct to his poor was admirable. He wrote annually reams of the best-intentioned and most vapid sermons. When LORD BRANDYBALL's family first came down into the country, and invited him to dine at Brandyball Park, SNIFFLE was so agitated that he almost forgot how to say Grace, and upset a bowl of currant-jelly sauce in LADY FANNY TOFFY's lap.

What was the consequence of his intimacy with that noble family? He quarrelled with his aunt for dining out every night. The wretch forgot his poor altogether, and killed his old nag by always riding over to Brandyball; where he revelled in the maddest passion for LADY FANNY. He ordered the neatest new clothes and ecclesiastical waistcoats from London; he appeared with corazza-shirts, lackered boots, and perfumery; he bought a blood-horse from BOB TOFFY: was seen at archery meetings, public breakfasts, — actually at cover; and, I blush to say, that I saw him in a stall at the Opera; and afterwards riding by LADY FANNY's side in Rotten Row. He *double-barrelled* his name, (as many poor Snobs do) and instead of T. SNIFFLE, as formerly, came out, in a porcelain card, as Rev. T. D'ARCY SNIFFLE, Burlington Hotel.

The end of all this may be imagined: when the EARL OF BRANDYBALL was made acquainted with the Curate's love for LADY FANNY, he had that fit of the gout which so nearly carried him off (to the inexpressible grief of his son, LORD ALICOMPAYNE), and uttered that remarkable speech to SNIFFLE, which disposed of the claims of the latter: — "If I didn't respect the Church, Sir," his Lordship said, "by JOVE, I'd kick you down stairs:" his Lordship then fell back into the fit aforesaid, and LADY FANNY, as we all know, married GENERAL PODAGER.

As for poor TOM, he was over head and ears in debt, as well as in love. his creditors came down upon him. MR. HEMP, of Portugal Street, proclaimed his name lately as a

reverend outlaw; and he has been seen at various foreign watering places; sometimes doing duty; sometimes "coaching" a stray gentleman's son at Carlsruhe or Kissingen; sometimes — must we say it? — lurking about the roulette-tables with a tuft to his chin.

If temptation had not come upon this unhappy fellow in the shape of a LORD BRANDYBALL, he might still have been following his profession, humbly and worthily. He might have married his cousin with four thousand pounds, the wine-merchant's daughter, (the old gentleman quarrelled with his nephew for not soliciting wine-orders from LORD B. for him): he might have had seven children, and taken private pupils, and eked out his income, and lived and died a country parson.

Could he have done better? You who want to know how great, and good, and noble such a character may be, read STANLEY'S "Life of DOCTOR ARNOLD."

CHAPTER XIII.

On Clerical Snobs.

AMONG the varieties of the Snob Clerical, the University Snob and the Scholastic Snob ought never to be forgotten; they form a very strong battalion in the black-coated army.

The wisdom of our ancestors (which I admire more and more every day) seemed to have determined that the education of youth was so paltry and unimportant a matter, that almost any man, armed with a birch and a regulation cassock and degree, might undertake the charge: and many an honest country gentleman may be found to the present day, who takes very good care to have a character with his butler when he engages him, and will not purchase a horse without the strongest warranty and the closest inspection; but sends off his son, young JOHN THOMAS, to school without asking any questions about the Schoolmaster, and places the lad at Switcheater College, under DOCTOR BLOCK, because he (the

good old English gentleman) been at Switchester, under DOCTOR BUZWIG, forty years ago.

We have a love for all little boys at school; for many scores of thousands of them read and love *Punch*: — may he never write a word that shall not be honest and fit for them to read! He will not have his young friends to be Snobs in the future, or to be bullied by Snobs, or given over to such to be educated. Our connexion with the youth at the Universities is very close and affectionate. The candid undergraduate is our friend. The pompous old College DON trembles in his common room, lest we should attack him and show him up as a Snob.

When railroads were threatening to invade the land which they have since conquered, it may be recollected what a shrieking and outcry the authorities of Oxford and Eton made, lest the iron abominations should come near those seats of pure learning, and tempt the British youth astray. The supplications were in vain; the railroad is in upon them, and the Old-World institutions are doomed. I felt charmed to read in the papers the other day a most veracious puffing advertisement, headed, "TO COLLEGE AND BACK FOR FIVE SHILLINGS." "The College Gardens (it said) will be thrown open on this occasion; the College youths will perform a regatta; the Chapel of King's College will have its celebrated music;" — and all for five shillings! The Goths have got into Rome; NAPOLEON STEPHENSON draws his republican lines round the sacred old cities; and the ecclesiastical big-wigs, who garrison them, must prepare to lay down key and crosier before the iron conqueror.

If you consider, dear reader, what profound Snobbishness the University system produced, you will allow that it is time to attack some of those feudal middle-age superstitions. If you go down for five shillings to look at the "College Youths," you may see one sneaking down the court without a tassel to his cap; another with a gold or silver fringe to his velvet trencher; a third lad with a master's gown and hat,

walking at ease over the sacred College grass-plats, which common men must not tread on.

He may do it, because he is a nobleman. Because a lad is a lord, the University gives him a degree at the end of two years, which another is seven in acquiring. Because he is a lord, he has no call to go through an examination. Any man who has not been to College and back for five shillings, would not believe in such distinctions in a place of education, so absurd and monstrous do they seem to be.

The lads with gold and silver lace are sons of rich gentlemen, and called Fellow Commoners; they are privileged to feed better than the pensioners, and to have wine with their victuals, which the latter can only get in their rooms.

The unlucky boys who have no tassels to their caps, are called sizers — *servitors* at Oxford, — (a very pretty and gentlemanlike title). A distinction is made in their clothes because they are poor; for which reason they wear a badge of poverty, and are not allowed to take their meals with their fellow-students.

When this wicked and shameful distinction was set up, it was of a piece with all the rest — a part of the brutal, unchristian, blundering feudal system. Distinctions of rank were then so strongly insisted upon, that it would have been thought blasphemy to doubt them, as blasphemous as it is in parts of the United States now, for a nigger to set up as the equal of a white man. A ruffian like HENRY VIII. talked as gravely about the divine powers vested in him, as if he had been an inspired prophet. A wretch like JAMES I. not only believed that there was in himself a particular sanctity, but other people believed him. Government regulated the length of a merchant's shoes as well as meddled with his trade, prices, exports, machinery. It thought itself justified in roasting a man for his religion, or pulling a Jew's teeth out if he did not pay a contribution, or ordered him to dress in a yellow gabardine, and locked him in a particular quarter.

Now a merchant may wear what boots he pleases, and has pretty nearly acquired the privilege of buying and selling

without the Government laying its paws upon the bargain. The stake for heretics is gone; the pillory is taken down; Bishops are even found lifting up their voices against the remains of persecution, and ready to do away with the last Catholic Disabilities. SIR ROBERT PEEL, though he wished it ever so much, has no power over MR. BENJAMIN DISRAELI'S grinders, or any means of violently handling that gentleman's jaw. Jews are not called upon to wear badges: on the contrary, they may live in Piccadilly, or the Minories, according to fancy; they may dress like Christians, and do so sometimes in a most elegant and fashionable manner.

Why is the poor College servitor to wear that name and that badge still? Because Universities are the last places into which Reform penetrates. But now that she can go to College and back for five shillings, let her travel down thither.

CHAPTER XIV.

On University Snobs.

ALL the men of Saint Boniface will recognise HUGBY and CRUMP. They were tutors in our time, and CRUMP is since advanced to be President of the College. He was formerly, and is now, a rich specimen of a University Snob.

At five-and-twenty, CRUMP invented three new metres, and published an edition of an exceedingly improper Greek Comedy, with no less than twenty emendations upon the German text of SCHNUPFENIUS and SCHNAPSUS. These services to religion instantly pointed him out for advancement in the Church, and he is now President of St. Boniface, and very narrowly escaped the bench.

CRUMP thinks St. Boniface the centre of the world, and his position as President, the highest in England. He expects the fellows and tutors to pay him the same sort of service that Cardinals pay to the Pope. I am sure CRAWLER would have no objection to carry his trencher, or PAGE to hold up the skirts of his gown as he stalks into chapel. He roars out the

responses there as if it were an honour to heaven, that the President of St. Boniface should take a part in the service, and in his own lodge and college acknowledges the Sovereign only as his superior.

When the allied monarchs came down, and were made Doctors of the University, a breakfast was given at St. Boniface; on which occasion CRUMP allowed the EMPEROR ALEXANDER to walk before him, but took the *pas* himself of the KING OF PRUSSIA and PRINCE BLUCHER. He was going to put the Hetman PLATOFF to breakfast at a side-table with the under-college tutors; but he was induced to relent, and merely entertained that distinguished Cossack with a discourse on his own language, in which he showed that the Hetman knew nothing about it.

As for us undergraduates, we scarcely knew more about CRUMP than about the Grand Lama. A few favoured youths are asked occasionally to tea at the lodge; but they do not speak unless first addressed by the Doctor; and if they venture to sit down, CRUMP's follower, MR. TOADY, whispers, "Gentlemen, will you have the kindness to get up? — The President is passing;" or, "Gentlemen, the President prefers that undergraduates should not sit down;" or words to a similar effect.

To do CRUMP justice, he does not cringe now to great people. He rather patronises them than otherwise; and, in London, speaks quite affably to a Duke who has been brought up at his college, or holds out a finger to a Marquis. He does not disguise his own origin, but brags of it with considerable self-gratulation: — "I was a Charity-boy," says he; "see what I am now; the greatest Greek scholar of the greatest College of the greatest University of the greatest Empire in the world." The argument being, that this is a capital world for beggars, because he, being a beggar, has managed to get on horseback.

HUGBY owes his eminence to patient merit and agreeable perseverance. He is a meek, mild, inoffensive creature, with just enough of scholarship to fit him to hold a lecture, or set

an examination paper. He rose by kindness to the aristocracy. It was wonderful to see the way in which that poor creature grovelled before a nobleman or a lord's nephew, or even some noisy and disreputable commoner, the friend of a lord. He used to give the young noblemen the most painful and elaborate breakfasts, and adopt a jaunty genteel air, and talk with them (although he was decidedly serious) about the opera, or the last run with the hounds. It was good to watch him in the midst of a circle of young tufts, with his mean, smiling, eager, uneasy familiarity. He used to write home confidential letters to their parents, and made it his duty to call upon them when in town, to condole or rejoice with them when a death, birth, or marriage took place in their family; and to feast them whenever they came to the University. I recollect a letter lying on a desk in his lecture-room for a whole term, beginning, "My Lord Duke." It was to show us that he corresponded with such dignities.

When the late lamented LORD GLENLIVAT, who broke his neck at a hurdle-race, at the premature age of twenty-four, was at the University, the amiable young fellow, passing to his rooms in the early morning, and seeing HUGBY's boots at his door, on the same staircase, playfully wadded the insides of the boots with cobbler's wax, which caused excruciating pains to the REV. MR. HUGBY, when he came to take them off the same evening, before dining with the Master of St. Crispin's.

Everybody gave the credit of this admirable piece of fun to LORD GLENLIVAT's friend, BOB TIZZY, who was famous for such feats, and who had already made away with the College pump-handle; filed ST. BONIFACE's nose smooth with his face; carried off four images of nigger-boys from the tobacconists; painted the senior proctor's horse pea-green, &c., &c.; and BOB (who was of the party certainly, and would not peach) was just on the point of incurring expulsion, and so losing the family living which was in store for him, when GLENLIVAT nobly stepped forward, owned himself to be the

author of the delightful *jeu d'esprit*, apologised to the tutor, and accepted the rustication.

HUGBY cried when GLENLIVAT apologised; if the young nobleman had kicked him round the court, I believe the tutor would have been happy, so that an apology and a reconciliation might subsequently ensue. "My lord," said he, "in your conduct on this and all other occasions, you have acted as becomes a gentleman; you have been an honour to the University, as you will be to the peerage, I am sure, when the amiable vivacity of youth is calmed down, and you are called upon to take your proper share in the government of the nation." And when his lordship took leave of the University, HUGBY presented him a copy of his "Sermons to a Nobleman's Family" (HUGBY was once private tutor to the sons of the EARL OF MUFFBOROUGH) which GLENLIVAT presented in return to MR. WILLIAM RAMM, known to the fancy as the Tutbury Pet, and the sermons now figure on the boudoir-table of MRS. RAMM, behind the bar of her house of entertainment, "The Game Cock and Spurs," near Woodstock, Oxon.

At the beginning of the long vacation, HUGBY comes to town, and puts up in handsome lodgings near Saint James's Square; rides in the Park in the afternoon; and is delighted to read his name in the morning papers among the list of persons present at Muffborough House, and the MARQUIS OF FARINTOSH's evening parties. He is a member of SYDNEY SCRAPER's Club, where, however, he drinks his pint of claret.

Sometimes you may see him on Sundays, at the hour when tavern-doors open, whence issue little girls with great jugs of porter; when charity-boys walk the streets, bearing brown dishes of smoking shoulders of mutton and baked 'tatures; when SHEENY and MOSES are seen smoking their pipes before their lazy shutters in Seven-Dials; when a crowd of smiling

persons in clean outlandish dresses, in monstrous bonnets and flaring printed gowns, or in crumpled glossy coats and silks, that bear the creases of the drawers where they have lain all the week, file down High Street, — sometimes, I say, you may see HUGBY coming out of the Church of Saint Giles-in-the-Fields, with a stout gentlewoman leaning on his arm, whose old face bears an expression of supreme pride and happiness as she glances round at all the neighbours, and who faces the Curate himself, and marches into Holborn, where she pulls the bell of a house, over which is inscribed, “HUGBY, HABERDASHER.” It is the mother of the REV. F. HUGBY, as proud of her son in his white choker as CORNELIA of her jewels at Rome. That is old HUGBY bringing up the rear with the Prayer-books, and BETSY HUGBY, the old maid, his daughter, — old HUGBY, Haberdasher and Church-warden.

In the front room up-stairs, where the dinner is laid out, there is a picture of Muffborough Castle; of the EARL OF MUFFBOROUGH, K. X., Lord Lieutenant for Diddlesex; an engraving from an Almanac of St. Boniface College, Oxon.; and a sticking-plaister portrait of HUGBY when young in a cap and gown. A copy of his “Sermons to a Nobleman’s Family” is on the book-shelf by the “Whole Duty of Man,” the Reports of the Missionary Societies, and the Oxford University Calendar. Old HUGBY knows part of this by heart; every living belonging to Saint Boniface, and the name of every tutor, fellow, nobleman, and undergraduate.

He used to go to meeting and preach himself, until his son took orders; but of late the old gentleman has been accused of Puseyism, and is quite pitiless against the Dissenters.

CHAPTER XV.

On University Snobs.

I SHOULD like to fill several volumes with accounts of various University Snobs; so fond are my reminiscences of them, and so numerous are they. I should like to speak, above all, of the wives and daughters of some of the Professor-Snobs; their amusements, habits, jealousies; their innocent artifices to entrap young men; their picnics, concerts, and evening parties. I wonder what has become of EMILY BLADES, daughter of BLADES the Professor of the Mandingo language? I remember her shoulders to this day, as she sate in the midst of a crowd of about seventy young gentlemen, from Corpus and Catharine Hall, entertaining them with ogles and French songs on the guitar. Are you married, fair EMILY of the shoulders? What beautiful ringlets those were that used to dribble over them! — what a waist! — what a killing sea-green shot-silk gown! — what a cameo, the size of a muffin! There were thirty-six young men of the University in love at one time with EMILY BLADES: and no words are sufficient to describe the pity, the sorrow, the deep, deep commiseration — the rage, fury, and uncharitableness, in other words — with which the Miss TRUMPS (daughter of TRUMPS, the Professor of Phlebotomy) regarded her, because she *didn't* squint, and because she *wasn't* marked with the small-pox.

As for the young University Snobs, I am getting too old, now, to speak of such very familiarly. My recollections of them lie in the far, far past — almost as far back as PELHAM'S time.

We *then* used to consider Snobs, raw-looking lads, who never missed chapel; who wore high-lows and no straps; who walked two hours on the Trumpington road every day of their lives; who carried off the College scholarships, and who overrated themselves in hall. We were premature in pronouncing our verdict of youthful Snobbishness. The man

without straps fulfilled his destiny and duty. He eased his old Governor, the Curate in Westmoreland, or helped his sisters to set up the Lady's School. He wrote a Dictionary, or a Treatise on Conic Sections, as his nature and genius prompted. He got a fellowship: and then took to himself a wife, and a living. He presides over a parish now, and thinks it rather a dashing thing to belong to the Oxford and Cambridge Club; and his parishioners love him, and snore under his sermons. No, no, *he* is not a Snob. It is not straps that make the gentleman, or high-lows that unmake him, be they ever so thick. My son, it is you who are the Snob if you lightly despise a man for doing his duty, and refuse to shake an honest man's hand because it wears a Berlin glove.

We then used to consider it not the least vulgar for a parcel of lads who had been whipped three months previous, and were not allowed more than three glasses of port at home, to sit down to pine-apples and ices at each others' rooms, and fuddle themselves with Champagne and Claret.

One looks back to what was called "a wine-party" with a sort of wonder. Thirty lads round a table covered with bad sweetmeats, drinking bad wines, telling bad stories, singing bad songs over and over again. Milk punch — smoking — ghastly headache — frightful spectacle of dessert table next morning, and smell of tobacco — your guardian, the clergyman, dropping in in the midst of this — expecting to find you deep in Algebra, and discovering the Gyp administering soda-water.

There were young men who despised the lads who indulged in the coarse hospitalities of wine-parties, who prided themselves in giving *récherchés* little French dinners. Both wine-party-givers and dinner-givers were Snobs.

There were what used to be called "dressy" Snobs: — JIMMY, who might be seen at five o'clock elaborately rigged out, with a camellia in his button-hole, glazed boots, and fresh kid gloves twice a day; — JESSAMY, who was conspicuous for his "jewellery," — a young donkey, — glittering all over with chains, rings, and shirt-studs; — JACKY, who

rode every day solemnly on the Blenheim Road, in pumps and white silk stockings, with his hair curled, — all three of whom flattered themselves they gave laws to the University about dress — all three most odious varieties of Snobs.

Sporting Snobs of course there were, and are always — those happy beings in whom Nature has implanted a love of slang: who loitered about the horsekeeper's stables, and drove the London coaches — a stage in and out, and might be seen swaggering through the courts in pink of early mornings, and indulged in dice and blind-hookey at nights, and never missed a race, or a boxing-match; and rode flat races, and kept bull-terriers. Worse Snobs even than these were poor miserable wretches, who did not like hunting at all, and could not afford it, and were in mortal fear at a two-foot ditch; but who hunted because GLENLIVAT and CINQBARS hunted. The Billiard Snob and the Boating Snob were varieties of these, and are to be found elsewhere than in Universities.

Then there were Philosophical Snobs, who used to ape statesmen at the Spouting Clubs, and who believed as a fact, that Government always had an eye on the University where to select orators for the House of Commons. There were audacious young Free-thinkers, who adored nobody or nothing, except perhaps ROBESPIERRE and the Koran, and panted for the day when the pale name of priest should shrink and dwindle away before the indignation of an enlightened world.

But the worst of all University Snobs, are those unfortunates who go to rack and ruin from their desire to ape their betters. SMITH becomes acquainted with great people at College, and is ashamed of his father the tradesman. JONES has fine acquaintances, and lives after their fashion like a gay, free-hearted fellow as he is, and ruins his father, and robs his sister's portion, and cripples his younger brother's outset in life, for the pleasure of entertaining my lord, and riding by the side of SIR JOHN. And though it may be very good fun for ROBINSON to fuddle himself at home as he does at

College, and to be brought home by the policeman he has just been trying to knock down — think what fun it is for the poor old soul, his mother! — the half-pay Captain's widow, who has been pinching herself all her life long, in order that that jolly young fellow might have a University Education.

CHAPTER XVI.

On Literary Snobs.

WHAT will he say about Literary Snobs? has been a question, I make no doubt, often asked by the public. How can he let off his own profession? Will that truculent and unsparing monster, who attacks the nobility, the clergy, the army, and the ladies indiscriminately, hesitate when the turn comes to *égorger* his own flesh and blood?

My dear and excellent querist, whom does the Schoolmaster flog so resolutely as his own son? Didn't BRUTUS chop his offspring's head off? You have a very bad opinion indeed of the present state of Literature and of literary men, if you fancy that any one of us would hesitate to stick a knife into his neighbour penman, if the latter's death could do the state any service.

But the fact is, that in the literary profession THERE ARE NO SNOBS. Look round at the whole body of British men of letters, and I defy you to point out among them a single instance of vulgarity, or envy, or assumption.

Men and women, as far as I have known them, they are all modest in their demeanour, elegant in their manners, spotless in their lives, and honourable in their conduct to the world and to each other. You *may*, occasionally, it is true, hear one literary man abusing his brother; but why? Not in the least out of malice; not at all from envy; merely from a sense of truth and public duty. Suppose, for instance, I good-naturedly point out a blemish in my friend *Mr. Punch's* person, and say *Mr. P.* has a hump-back, and his nose and chin are more crooked than those features in the APOLLO

or ANTINOUS, which we are accustomed to consider as our standards of beauty; does this argue malice on my part towards *Mr. Punch*? Not in the least. It is the critic's duty to point out defects as well as merits, and he invariably does his duty with the utmost gentleness and candour.

An intelligent foreigner's testimony about our manners is always worth having, and I think, in this respect, the work of an eminent American, MR. N. P. WILLIS, is eminently valuable and impartial. In his "*History of Ernest Clay*," a crack Magazine writer, the reader will get an exact account of the life of a popular man of letters in England. He is always the great lion of society.

He takes the *pas* of Dukes and Earls; all the nobility crowd to see him: I forget how many Baronesses and Duchesses fall in love with him. But on this subject let us hold our tongues. Modesty forbids that we should reveal the names of the heart-broken Countesses and dear Marchionesses who are pining for every one of the contributors in this periodical.

If anybody wants to know how intimately authors are connected with the fashionable world, they have but to read the genteel novels. What refinement and delicacy pervades the works of MRS. BARNABY! What delightful good company do you meet with in MRS. ARMYTAGE! She seldom introduces you to anybody under a Marquis! I don't know anything more delicious than the pictures of genteel life in *Ten Thousand a Year*, except perhaps the *Young Duke*, and *Corningsby*. There's a modest grace about *them*, and an air of easy high fashion, which only belongs to blood, my dear Sir — to true blood.

And what linguists many of our writers are! LADY BULWER, LADY LONDONDERRY, SIR EDWARD himself — they write the French language with a luxurious elegance and ease, which sets them far above their continental rivals, of whom not one (except PAUL DE KOCK) knows a word of English.

And what Briton can read without enjoyment the works of JAMES, so admirable for terseness; and the playful humour and dazzling off-hand lightness of AINSWORTH? Among other humorists, one might glance at a JERROLD, the chivalrous advocate of Toryism and Church and State; an à BECKETT, with a lightsome pen, but a savage earnestness of purpose; a JEAMES, whose pure style, and wit unmingled with buffoonery, was relished by a congenial public.

Speaking of critics, perhaps there never was a review that has done so much for literature as the admirable *Quarterly*. It has its prejudices, to be sure, as which of us have not. It goes out of its way to abuse a great man, or lays mercilessly on to such pretenders as KEATS and TENNYSON; but on the other hand, it is the friend of all young authors, and has marked and nurtured all the rising talent of the country. It is loved by everybody. There, again, is *Blackwood's Magazine* — conspicuous for modest elegance and amiable satire; that Review never passes the bounds of politeness in a joke. It is the arbiter of manners; and, while gently exposing the foibles of Londoners (for whom the *beaux esprits* of Edinburgh entertain a justifiable contempt), it is never coarse in its fun. The fiery enthusiasm of the *Athenæum* is well known: and the bitter wit of the too difficult *Literary Gazette*. The *Examiner* is perhaps too timid, and the *Spectator* too boisterous in its praise — but who can carp at these minor faults? No, no; the critics of England and the authors of England are unrivalled as a body; and hence it becomes impossible for us to find fault with them.

Above all, I never knew a man of letters *ashamed of his profession*. Those who know us, know what an affectionate and brotherly spirit there is among us all. Sometimes one of us rises in the world: we never attack him or sneer at him under those circumstances, but rejoice to a man at his success. If JONES dines with a Lord, SMITH never says JONES is a courtier and cringer. Nor, on the other hand, does JONES, who is in the habit of frequenting the society of great people, give himself any airs on account of the company he keeps;

but will leave a Duke's arm in Pall Mall to come over and speak to poor BROWN, the young penny-a-liner.

That sense of equality and fraternity amongst Authors has always struck me as one of the most amiable characteristics of the class. It is because we know and respect each other, that the world respects us so much; that we hold such a good position in society, and demean ourselves so irreproachably when there.

Literary persons are held in such esteem by the nation, that about two of them have been absolutely invited to Court during the present reign: and it is probable that towards the end of the season, one or two will be asked to dinner by SIR ROBERT PEEL.

They are such favourites with the public, that they are continually obliged to have their pictures taken and published; and one or two could be pointed out, of whom the nation insists upon having a fresh portrait every year. Nothing can be more gratifying than this proof of the affectionate regard which the people has for its instructors.

Literature is held in such honour in England, that there is a sum of near twelve hundred pounds per annum set apart to pension deserving persons following that profession. And a great compliment this is, too, to the professors, and a proof of their generally prosperous and flourishing condition. They are generally so rich and thrifty, that scarcely any money is wanted to help them.

If every word of this is true, how, I should like to know, am I to write about Literary Snobs?

CHAPTER XVII.

A little about Irish Snobs.

YOU do not, to be sure, imagine that there are no other Snobs in Ireland than those of the amiable party who wish to make pikes of iron railroads, (it's a fine Irish economy) and to cut the throats of the Saxon invaders. These are of the venomous sort; and had they been invented in his

time, ST. PATRICK would have banished them out of the kingdom along with the other dangerous reptiles.

I think it is the Four Masters, or else it's OLAUS MAGNUS, or else it's certainly O'NEILL DAUNT, in the Catechism of Irish History, who relates that when RICHARD THE SECOND came to Ireland, and the Irish Chiefs did homage to him, going down on their knees — the poor simple creatures! — and worshipping and wondering before the English king and the dandies of his Court, my lords the English noblemen mocked and jeered at their uncouth Irish admirers, mimicked their talk and gestures, pulled their poor old beards, and laughed at the strange fashion of their garments.

The English Snob rampant always does this to the present day. There is no Snob in existence, perhaps, that has such an indomitable belief in himself; that sneers you down all the rest of the world besides; and has such an insufferable, admirable, stupid contempt for all people but his own — nay, for all sets but his own. "Gwacious Gad!" what stories about "the Iwish" these young dandies accompanying KING RICHARD must have had to tell, when they returned to Pall Mall, and smoked their cigars upon the steps of WHITE'S!

The Irish Snobbishness developes itself not in pride so much as in servility and mean admirations, and trumpery imitations of their neighbours. And I wonder DE TOCQUEVILLE and DE BEAUMONT, and the *Times' Commissioner*, did not explain the Snobbishness of Ireland as contrasted with our own. Ours is that of RICHARD'S Norman Knights, — haughty, brutal, stupid, and perfectly self-confident; — theirs, of the poor wondering, kneeling, simple chieftains. They are on their knees still before English fashion — these simple, wild people; and indeed, it is hard not to grin at some of their *naïve* exhibitions.

Some years since, when a certain great orator was Lord Mayor of Dublin, he used to wear a red gown and a cocked hat, the splendour of which delighted him as much as a new curtain-ring in her nose or a string of glass beads round her neck charms QUEEN QUASHEENEABOO. He used to pay

visits to people in this dress; to appear at meetings, hundreds of miles off, in the red velvet gown. And to hear the people crying "Yes, me Lard!" and "No, me Lard!" and to read the prodigious accounts of his Lordship in the papers! it seemed as if the people and he liked to be taken in by this twopenny splendour. Twopenny magnificence, indeed, exists all over Ireland, and may be considered as the great characteristic of the Snobbishness of that country.

When MRS. MULHOLLIGAN, the grocer's lady, retires to Kingstown, she has "MULHOLLIGANVILLE" painted over the gate of her villa; and receives you at a door that won't shut, or gazes at you out of a window that is glazed with an old petticoat.

Be it ever so shabby and dismal, nobody ever owns to keeping a shop. A fellow whose stock in trade is a penny roll or a tumbler of lollipops, calls his cabin the "American Flour Stores," or the "Depository for Colonial Produce," or some such name.

As for Inns, there are none in the country; Hotels abound, as well furnished as Mulholliganville; but again, there are no such people as landlords and landladies; the landlord is out with the hounds, and my lady, in the parlour talking with the Captain or playing the piano.

If a gentleman has a hundred a year to leave to his family they all become gentlemen, all keep a nag, ride to hounds, and swagger about in the "Phaynix," and grow tufts to their chins like so many real aristocrats.

A friend of mine has taken to be a painter, and lives out of Ireland, where he is considered to have disgraced the family by choosing such a profession. His father is a wine-merchant; and his elder brother an apothecary.

The number of men one meets in London and on the Continent who have a pretty little property of five-and-twenty hundred a year in Ireland is prodigious — those who *will* have nine thousand a year in land when somebody dies are still more numerous. I myself have met as many descendants from Irish kings as would form a brigade.

And who has not met the Irishman who apes the Englishman, and who forgets his country and tries to forget his accent, or to smother the taste of it, as it were? "Come, dine with me, my boy," says O'Dowd, of O'Dowdstown, "you'll *find us all English there*;" which he tells you with a brogue as broad as from here to Kingstown Pier. And did you never hear MRS. CAPTAIN MACMANUS talk about "I-ah-land," and her account of her "fawther's esteet?" Very few men have rubbed through the world without hearing and witnessing some of these Hibernian phenomena — these two-penny splendours.

And what say you to the summit of society — the Castle — with a sham king, and sham lords-in-waiting, and sham loyalty, and a sham HAROUN ALRASCHID, to go about in a sham disguise, making-believe to be affable and splendid? That Castle is the pink and pride of Snobbishness. A Court Circular is bad enough, with two columns of print about a little baby that's christened — but think of people liking a sham Court Circular!

I think the shams of Ireland are more outrageous than those of any country. A fellow shows you a hill and says, "That's the highest mountain in all Ireland;" or a gentleman tells you he is descended from BRIAN BOROO, and has his five-and-thirty hundred a year; or MRS. MACMANUS describes her fawther's esteet; or our ould DAN rises and says the Irish women are the loveliest, the Irishmen the bravest, the Irish land the most fertile in the world: and nobody believes anybody — the latter doesn't believe his story nor the hearer: — but they make-believe to believe, and solemnly do honour to humbug.

Oh Ireland! Oh my country! (for I make little doubt that I am descended from BRIAN BOROO too) when will you acknowledge that two and two make four, and call a pike-staff a pikestaff? — that is the very best use you can make of the latter. Irish Snobs will dwindle away then, and we shall never hear tell of Hereditary Bondsmen.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Party-giving Snobs.

OUR selection of Snobs for the past few weeks has been too exclusively of a political character*. "Give us private Snobs," cry the dear ladies. (I have before me the letter of one fair correspondent of the fishing village of Bright-helmstone in Sussex; and could her commands ever be disobeyed?) "Tell us more, dear MR. SNOB, about your experience of Snobs in society." Heaven bless the dear souls! — they are accustomed to the word now — the odious, vulgar, horrid, unpronounceable word slips out of their lips with the prettiest glibness possible. I should not wonder if it were used at Court amongst the Maids of Honour. In the very best society I know it is. And why not? Snobbishness is vulgar — the mere words are not: that which we call a Snob, by any other name would still be Snobbish.

Well, then. As the season is drawing to a close; as many hundreds of kind souls, snobbish or otherwise, have quitted London; as many hospitable carpets are taken up; and window-blinds are pitilessly papered with the *Morning Herald*; and mansions once inhabited by cheerful owners are now consigned to the care of the housekeeper's dreary *locum tenens* — some mouldy old woman, who, in reply to the hopeless clanging of the bell, peers at you for a moment from the area, and then slowly unbolting the great hall door, informs you my lady has left town, or that "the family's in the country," or "gone up the Rind," — or what not — as the season and parties are over; why not consider Party-giving Snobs for awhile, and review the conduct of some of those individuals who have quitted the town for six months?

* On re-perusing these papers, I have found them so stupid, so personal, so snobbish — in a word, that I have withdrawn them from this collection. — THE SNOB.

Some of those worthy Snobs are making-believe to go yachting, and, dressed in telescopes and pea-jackets, are passing their time between Cherbourg and Cowes; some living higgledy-piggledy in dismal little huts in Scotland, provisioned with canisters of portable soup, and fricandeaux hermetically sealed in tin, are passing their days slaughtering grouse on the moors; some are dosing and bathing away the effects of the season at Kissingen, or watching the ingenious game of *Trente et quarante* at Hombourg and Ems. We can afford to be very bitter upon them now they are all gone. Now there are no more parties, let us have at the Party-giving Snobs. The dinner-giving, the ball-giving, the *déjeuner*-giving, the *conversazione*-giving Snobs — Lord! Lord! what havoc might have been made amongst them had we attacked them during the plethora of the season! I should have been obliged to have a guard to defend me from fiddlers and pastry-cooks, indignant at the abuse of their patrons. Already I'm told that, from some flippant and unguarded expressions considered derogatory to Baker Street and Harley Street, rents have fallen in these respectable quarters; and orders have been issued that at least MR. SNOB shall be asked to parties there no more. Well, then — now they are *all* away, let us frisk at our ease, and have at everything, like the bull in the china-shop. They mayn't hear of what is going on in their absence, and, if they do, they can't bear malice for six months. We will begin to make it up with them about next February, and let next year take care of itself. We shall have no more dinners from the dinner-giving Snobs: no more balls from the ball-givers: no more *conversaciones* (thank Mussy! as JEAMES says,) from the *Conversazione* Snob: and what is to prevent us from telling the truth?

The Snobbishness of *Conversazione* Snobs is very soon disposed of, as soon as that cup of washy bohea that is handed to you in the tea-room; or the muddy remnant of ice that you grasp in the suffocating scuffle of the assembly up-stairs.

Good Heavens! what do people mean by going there?

What is done there, that everybody throngs into those three little rooms? Was the Black Hole considered to be an agreeable *réunion*, that Britons in the dog-days here seek to imitate it? After being rammed to a jelly in a door-way (where you feel your feet going through LADY BARBARA MACBETH's lace flounces, and get a look from that haggard and painted old harpy, compared to which the gaze of UGOLINO is quite cheerful;) after withdrawing your elbow out of poor gasping BOB GUTTLETON's white waistcoat, from which cushion it was impossible to remove it, though you knew you were squeezing poor BOB into an apoplexy — you find yourself at last in the reception-room, and try to catch the eye of MRS. BOTIBOL, the *conversazione*-giver. When you catch her eye, you are expected to grin, and she smiles too, for the four-hundredth time that night; and, if she's *very* glad to see you, waggles her little hand before her face as if to blow you a kiss, as the phrase is.

Why the deuce should MRS. BOTIBOL blow me a kiss? I wouldn't kiss her for the world. Why do I grin when I see her, as if I was delighted? Am I? I don't care a straw for MRS. BOTIBOL. I know what she thinks about me. I know what she said about my last volume of poems (I had it from a dear mutual friend). Why, I say in a word, are we going on ogling and telegraphing each other in this insane way? — Because we are both performing the ceremonies demanded by the Great Snob Society: whose dictates we all of us obey.

Well; the recognition is over — my jaws have returned to their usual English expression of subdued agony and intense gloom, and the BOTIBOL is grinning and kissing her fingers to somebody else, who is squeezing through the aperture by which we have just entered. It is LADY ANN CLUTTERBUCK, who has her Friday evenings, as BOTIBOL (BOTTY, we call her) has her Wednesdays. That is MISS CLEMENTINA CLUTTERBUCK, the cadaverous young woman in green, with florid auburn hair, who has published her volume of poems ("The Death-Shriek;" "Damien;" "The Faggot of Joan of Arc;" and "Translations from the German" — of course) —

the *conversazione* women salute each other, calling each other, "My dear LADY ANN," and "My dear good ELIZA," and hating each other, as women hate who give parties on Wednesdays and Fridays. With inexpressible pain dear good ELIZA sees ANN go up and coax and wheedle ABOU GOSH, who has just arrived from Syria, and beg him to patronise her Fridays.

All this while, amidst the crowd and the scuffle, and a perpetual buzz and chatter, and the flare of the wax candles, and an intolerable smell of musk — what the poor Snobs who write fashionable romances call "the gleam of gems, the odour of perfumes, the blaze of countless lamps" — a scrubby-looking, yellow-faced foreigner, with cleaned gloves, is warbling inaudibly in a corner, to the accompaniment of another. "The Great CACAFOGO," MRS. BOTIBOL whispers, as she passes you by — "A great creature, THUMPENSTRUMPF, is at the instrument — the HETMAN PLATOFF'S Pianist, you know."

To hear this CACAFOGO and THUMPENSTRUMPF, a hundred people are gathered together — a bevy of dowagers, stout or scraggy; a faint sprinkling of misses; six moody-looking lords, perfectly meek and solemn; wonderful foreign Counts, with bushy whiskers and yellow faces, and a great deal of dubious jewellery; young dandies with slim waists and open necks, and self-satisfied simpers, and flowers in their buttons; the old, stiff, stout, bald-headed *conversazione-roués*, whom you meet everywhere — who never miss a night of this delicious enjoyment; the three last-caught lions of the season — HIGGS, the traveller; BIGGS, the novelist; and TOFFEY, who has come out so on the sugar question; CAPTAIN FLASH, who is invited on account of his pretty wife, and LORD OGLEBY, who goes wherever she goes — *que sais-je?* Who are the owners of all those showy scarfs and white neck-cloths? — Ask little TOM PRIG, who is there in all his glory, knows everybody, has a story about every one; and, as he trips home to his lodgings, in Jermyn-street, with his Gibushat and his little glazed pumps, thinks he is the fashionablest

young fellow in town, and that he really has passed a night of exquisite enjoyment.

You go up (with your usual easy elegance of manner) and talk to MISS SMITH in a corner.

“Oh, MR. SNOB! I’m afraid you’re sadly satirical.”

That’s all she says. If you say it’s fine weather, she bursts out laughing; or hint that it’s very hot, she vows you are the drollest wretch! Meanwhile MRS. BOTIBOL is simpering on fresh arrivals; the individual at the door is roaring out their names; poor CACAFOGO is quavering away in the music-room, under the impression that he will be *lancé* in the world by singing inaudibly here. And what a blessing it is to squeeze out of the door, and into the street, where a half-hundred of carriages are in waiting; and where the link-boy, with that unnecessary lanthorn of his, pounces upon all who issue out, and will insist upon getting your noble honour’s lordship’s cab.

And to think that there are people who, after having been to BOTIBOL on Wednesday, will go to CLUTTERBUCK on Friday!

CHAPTER XIX.

Dining-out Snobs.

IN England Dinner-giving Snobs occupy a very important place in society, and the task of describing them is tremendous. There was a time in my life when the consciousness of having eaten a man’s salt rendered me dumb regarding his demerits, and I thought it a wicked act and a breach of hospitality to speak ill of him.

But why should a saddle of mutton blind you, or a turbot and lobster sauce shut your mouth for ever? With advancing age, men see their duties more clearly. I am not to be hoodwinked any longer by a slice of venison, be it ever so fat; and as for being dumb on account of turbot and lobster sauce — of course I am; good manners ordain that I should be so, until I have swallowed the compound — but not afterwards; directly the victuals are discussed, and JOHN takes away the plate, my

tongue begins to wag. Does not yours, if you have a pleasant neighbour? — a lovely creature, say, of some five-and-thirty, whose daughters have not yet quite come out — they are the best talkers. As for your young misses, they are only put about the table to look at — like the flowers in the centre-piece. Their blushing youth and natural modesty prevents them from that easy, confidential conversational *abandon* which forms the delight of the intercourse with their dear mothers. It is to these, if he would prosper in his profession, that the Dining-out Snob should address himself. Suppose you sit next to one of these, how pleasant it is, in the intervals of the banquet, actually to abuse the victuals and the giver of the entertainment! It's twice as *piquant* to make fun of a man under his very nose.

What is a Dinner-giving Snob? some innocent youth, who is not *repandu* in the world, may ask — or some simple reader who has not the benefits of London experience.

My dear Sir, I will show you — not all, for that is impossible — but several kinds of Dinner-giving Snobs. For instance, suppose you, in the middle rank of life, accustomed to Mutton, roast on Tuesday, cold on Wednesday, hashed on Thursday, &c., with small means, and a small establishment, choose to waste the former and set the latter topsy-turvy by giving entertainments unnaturally costly — you come into the Dinner-giving Snob class at once. Suppose you get in cheap made dishes from the pastry-cook's, and hire a couple of green-grocers, or carpet-beaters, to figure as footmen, dismissing honest MOLLY, who waits on common days, and bedizening your table (ordinarily ornamented with willow-pattern crockery) with twopenny-halfpenny Birmingham plate. Suppose you pretend to be richer and grander than you ought to be — you are a Dinner-giving Snob. And O, I tremble to think how many and many a one will read this on Thursday!

A man who entertains in this way — and, alas, how few do not! — is like a fellow who would borrow his neighbour's coat to make a show in, or a lady who flaunts in the diamonds from

next door — a humbug, in a word, and amongst the Snobs he must be set down.

A man who goes out of his natural sphere of society to ask Lords, Generals, Aldermen, and other persons of fashion, but is niggardly of his hospitality towards his own equals, is a Dinner-giving Snob. My dear friend, JACK TUFTHUNT, for example, knows *one* Lord whom he met at a watering-place; old LORD MUMBLE, who is as toothless as a three-months-old baby, and as mum as an undertaker, and as dull as — well, we will not particularise. TUFTHUNT never has a dinner now, but you see this solemn old toothless patrician at the right hand of MRS. TUFTHUNT — TUFTHUNT is a Dinner-giving Snob.

Old LIVERMORE, old SOY, old CHUTTNEY, the East India Director, old CUTLER, the Surgeon, &c., — that society of old fogies, in fine, who give each other dinners round and round, and dine for the mere purpose of guttling — these, again, are Dinner-giving Snobs.

Again, my friend LADY MACSCREW, who has three grenadier flunkies in lace round the table, and serves up a scrag of mutton on silver, and dribbles you out bad sherry and port by thimblefuls, is a Dinner-giving Snob of the other sort; and I confess, for my part, I would rather dine with old LIVERMORE or old SOY than with her Ladyship.

Stinginess is snobbish. Ostentation is snobbish. Too great profusion is snobbish. Tuft-hunting is snobbish: but I own there are people more Snobbish than all those whose defects are above mentioned: viz., those individuals who can, and don't give dinners at all. The man without hospitality shall never sit *sub iisdem trabibus* with me. Let the sordid wretch go mumble his bone alone!

What, again, is true hospitality? Alas, my dear friends and brother Snobs! how little do we meet of it after all! Are the motives *pure* which induce your friends to ask you to dinner? This has often come across me. Does your entertainer want something from you? For instance, I am not of a suspicious turn; but it is a fact, that when HOOKEY is bringing out

a new work, he asks the critics all round, to dinner; that when WALKER has got his picture ready for the Exhibition, he somehow grows exceedingly hospitable, and has his friends of the press to a quiet cutlet and a glass of Sillery. Old HUNKS, the miser, who died lately (leaving his money to his house-keeper) lived many years on the fat of the land, by simply taking down, at all his friends', the names and Christian names *of all the children*. But though you may have your own opinion about the hospitality of your acquaintances; and though men who ask you from sordid motives are most decidedly Dinner-giving Snobs, it is best not to inquire into their motives too keenly. Be not too curious about the mouth of a gift-horse. After all, a man does not intend to insult you by asking you to dinner.

Though, for that matter, I know some characters about town who actually consider themselves injured and insulted if the dinner or the company is not to their liking. There is GUTTLETON, who dines at home off a shilling's worth of beef from the cook's shop, but if he is asked to dine at a house where there are not peas at the end of May, or cucumbers in March along with the turbot, thinks himself insulted by being invited. "Good God!" says he, "what the deuce do the FORKERS mean, by asking *me* to a family dinner? I can get mutton at home;" or, "What infernal impertinence it is of the SPOONERS to get *entrées* from the pastry-cook's, and fancy that *I* am to be deceived with their stories about their French cook!" Then, again, there is JACK PUDDINGTON — I saw that honest fellow t' other day quite in a rage, because, as chance would have it, SIR JOHN CARVER asked him to meet the very same party he had met at COLONEL CRAMLEY's the day before, and he had not got up a new set of stories to entertain them. Poor Dinner-giving Snobs! you don't know what small thanks you get for all your pains and money! How we Dining-out Snobs sneer at your cookery, and pooh-pooh your old Hock, and are incredulous about your four-and-sixpenny Champagne; and know that the side-dishes of to-day are *réchauffées* from the dinner of yesterday, and mark how certain

dishes are whisked off the table untasted, so that they may figure at the banquet to-morrow. Whenever, for my part, I see the head man particularly anxious to *escamoter* a fri-candeau or a blanc-mange, I always call out, and insist upon massacring it with a spoon. All this sort of conduct makes one popular with the Dinner-giving Snob. One friend of mine, I know, has made a prodigious sensation in good society, by announcing *à propos* of certain dishes when offered to him, that he never eats aspic except at LORD TITTUP'S, and that LADY JIMINY'S *Chef* is the only man in London who knows how to dress — *filet en serpenteau* — or *Suprême de Volaille aux truffes*.

CHAPTER XX.

Dinner-giving Snobs further considered.

IF my friends would but follow the present prevailing fashion, I think they ought to give me a testimonial for the paper on Dinner-giving Snobs, which I am now writing. What do you say now to a handsome comfortable dinner-service of plate (*not* including plates, for I hold silver plates to be sheer wantonness, and would almost as soon think of silver tea-cups), a couple of neat tea-pots, a coffee-pot, trays, &c., with a little inscription to my wife, MRS. SNOB; and a half-score of silver tankards for the little Snoblings, to glitter on the homely table where they partake of their quotidian mutton?

If I had my way, and my plans could be carried out, dinner-giving would increase as much on the one hand as dinner-giving Snobbishness would diminish; — to my mind, the most amiable part of the work lately, published by my esteemed friend (if upon a very brief acquaintance he will allow me to call him so), ALEXIS SOYER, THE REGENERATOR; what he (in his noble style) would call the most succulent, savoury, and elegant passages, are those which relate, not to the grand banquets and ceremonial dinners, but to "his dinners at home."

The "dinner at home" ought to be the centre of the whole system of dinner-giving. Your usual style of meal that is plenteous, comfortable, and in its perfection, should be that to which you welcome your friends, as it is that of which you partake yourself.

For, towards what woman in the world do I entertain a higher regard than towards the beloved partner of my existence, MRS. SNOB? who should have a greater place in my affections than her six brothers (three or four of whom we are pretty sure will favour us with their company at seven o'clock), or her angelic mother, my own valued mother-in-law? — for whom, finally, would I wish to cater more generously than for your very humble servant, the present writer? Now, nobody supposes that the Birmingham plate is had out, the disguised carpet-beaters introduced to the exclusion of the neat parlour-maid, the miserable *entrées* from the pastry-cook's ordered in, and the children packed off, (as it is supposed) to the nursery, but really only to the staircase, down which they slide during the dinner-time, waylaying the dishes as they come out, and fingering the round bumps on the jellies, and the forced-meat balls in the soup. Nobody, I say, supposes that a dinner at home is characterized by the horrible ceremony, the foolish makeshifts, the mean pomp and ostentation which distinguish our banquets on grand field-days.

Such a notion is monstrous. I would as soon think of having my dearest BESSY sitting opposite me in a turban and bird of Paradise, and showing her jolly mottled arms out of blonde sleeves in her famous red satin gown: aye, or of having MR. TOOLE every day, in a white waistcoat, at my back, shouting out "Silence *faw* the chair!"

Now, if this be the case; if the Brummagem-plate pomp and the processions of disguised footmen are odious and foolish in every-day life, why not always? Why should JONES and I, who are in the middle rank, alter the modes of our being to assume an *éclat* which does not belong to us — to entertain our friends, who (if we are worth anything, and

honest fellows at bottom) are men of the middle rank too, who are not in the least deceived by our temporary splendour; and who play off exactly the same absurd trick upon us when they ask us to dine?

If it be pleasant to dine with your friends, as all persons with good stomachs and kindly hearts will, I presume, allow it to be, it is better to dine twice than to dine once. It is impossible for men of small means to be continually spending five-and-twenty or thirty shillings on each friend who sits down to their table. People dine for less. I myself have seen, at my favourite Club, (the Senior United Service,) His Grace the DUKE OF WELLINGTON quite contented with the joint, one-and-three, and half-pint of Sherry wine nine; and if His Grace, why not you and I?

This rule I have made, and found the benefit of. Whenever I ask a couple of Dukes and a Marquis or so to dine with me, I set them down to a piece of beef, or a leg of mutton and trimmings. The grandees thank you for this simplicity, and appreciate the same. My dear JONES, ask any of those whom you have the honour of knowing, if such be not the case.

I am far from wishing that their Graces should treat me in a similar fashion. Splendour is a part of their station, as decent comfort (let us trust) of yours and mine. Fate has comfortably appointed gold plate for some, and has bidden others contentedly to wear the willow pattern. And being perfectly contented, (indeed humbly thankful — for look around, O JONES, and see the myriads who are not so fortunate), to wear honest linen, while magnificos of the world are adorned with cambric and point-lace; surely we ought to hold as miserable, envious fools, those wretched Beaux TIBBS's of society, who sport a lace dickey, and nothing besides. The poor silly jays, who trail a peacock's feather behind them, and think to simulate the gorgeous bird whose nature it is to strut on palace-terraces, and to flaunt his magnificent fan-tail in the sunshine.

The jays with peacocks' feathers are the SNOBS of this world: and never since the days of ÆSOP were they more numerous in any land, than they are at present in this free country.

How does this most ancient apologue apply to the subject in hand — the Dinner-giving Snob? The imitation of the great is universal in this city, from the palaces of Kensingtonia and Belgravia, even to the remotest corner of Brunswick Square. Peacocks' feathers are stuck in the tails of most families. Scarce one of us domestic birds but imitates the lanky, pavonine strut, and shrill, genteel scream. O you misguided Dinner-giving Snobs, think how much pleasure you lose, and how much mischief you do with your absurd grandeurs and hypocrisies! You stuff each other with unnatural forced-meats, and entertain each other to the ruin of friendship (let alone health) and the destruction of hospitality and good-fellowship — you, who but for the peacock's tail might chatter away so much at your ease, and be so jovial and happy!

When a man goes into a great set company of dinner-giving and dinner-receiving Snobs; if he has a philosophical turn of mind, he will consider what a huge humbug the whole affair is; the dishes and the drink, and the servants and the plate, and the host and hostess, and the conversation, and the company, — the philosopher included.

The host is smiling and hob-nobbing, and talking up and down the table; but a prey to secret terrors and anxieties lest the wines he has brought up from the cellar should prove insufficient; lest a corked bottle should destroy his calculations; or our friend the carpet-beater, by making some *bévue*, should disclose his real quality of green-grocer, and show that he is not the family butler.

The hostess is smiling resolutely through all the courses, smiling through her agony; though her heart is in the kitchen, and she is speculating with terror lest there be any disaster there. If the *soufflé* should collapse, or if WIGGINS does not

send the ices in time — she feels as if she would commit suicide — that smiling, jolly woman!

The children up-stairs are yelling, as their maid is crimping their miserable ringlets with hot tongs, tearing Miss EMMY's hair out by the roots, or scrubbing Miss POLLY's dumpy nose with mottled soap till the little wretch screams herself into fits. The young males of the family are employed, as we have stated, in piratical exploits upon the landing-place.

The servants are not servants, but the before-mentioned retail tradesmen.

The plate is not silver, but a mere shiny Birmingham lacquer; and so is the hospitality, and everything else.

The talk is Birmingham talk. The wag of the party, with bitterness in his heart, having just quitted his laundress, who is dunning him for her bill, is firing off good stores; and the opposition wag is furious that he cannot get an innings. JAWKINS, the great conversationist, is scornful and indignant with the pair of them, because he is kept out of court. Young MUSCADEL, that cheap dandy, is talking Fashion and ALMACK's out of the *Morning Post*, and disgusting his neighbour, MRS. FOX, who reflects that she has never been there. The widow is vexed out of patience, because her daughter MARIA has got a place beside young CAMBRIC, the penniless curate, and not by COLONEL GOLDMORE, the rich widower from India. The doctor's wife is sulky, because she has not been led out before the barrister's lady; old DOCTOR CORK is grumbling at the wine, and GUTTLETON sneering at the cookery.

And to think that all these people might be so happy, and easy, and friendly, were they brought together in a natural unpretentious way, and but for an unhappy passion for peacocks' feathers in England. Gentle shades of MARAT and ROBESPIÈRE! when I see how all the honesty of society is corrupted among us by the miserable fashion-worship, I feel as angry as MRS. FOX just mentioned, and ready to order a general *battue* of peacocks.

CHAPTER XXI.

Some Continental Snobs.

Now that September has come, and all our parliamentary duties are over, perhaps no class of Snobs are in such high feather as the Continental Snobs. I watch these daily as they commence their migrations from the beach at Folkestone. I see shoals of them depart (not perhaps without an innate longing too to quit the island along with those happy Snobs). Farewell, dear friends, I say, you little know that the individual who regards you from the beach is your friend and historiographer and brother.

I went to-day to see our excellent friend SNOOKS, on board the *Queen of the French*; many scores of Snobs were there, on the deck of that fine ship, marching forth in their pride and bravery. They will be at Ostend in four hours; they will inundate the continent next week; they will carry into far lands the famous image of the British Snob. I shall not see them — but am with them in spirit; and indeed there is hardly a country in the known and civilized world in which these eyes have not beheld them.

I have seen Snobs, in pink coats and hunting boots, scouring over the Campagna of Rome: and have heard their oaths and their well-known slang in the galleries of the Vatican, and under the shadowy arches of the Colosseum. I have met a Snob on a dromedary in the desert, and picknicking under the pyramid of Cheops. I like to think how many gallant British Snobs there are, at this minute of writing, pushing their heads out of every window in the court-yard of MEURICE'S, in the Rue de Rivoli; or roaring out "Garson, du pang," "Garson, du vang;" or swaggering down the Toledo at Naples; or even how many will be on the look out for SNOOKS on Ostend pier, — for SNOOKS and the rest of the Snobs on board the *Queen of the French*.

Look at the MARQUIS OF CARABAS and his two carriages. My lady Marchioness comes on board, looks round with

that happy air of mingled terror and impertinence which distinguishes her ladyship, and rushes to her carriage, for it is impossible that she should mingle with the other Snobs on deck. There she sits, and will be ill in private. The strawberry-leaves on her chariot-panels are engraved on her ladyship's heart. If she were going to heaven instead of to Ostend, I rather think she would expect to have *des places réservées* for her, and would send to order the best rooms. A courier, with his money-bag of office round his shoulders — a huge scowling footman, whose dark pepper-and-salt livery glistens with the heraldic insignia of the CARABASSES — a brazen-looking, tawdry French *femme-de-chambre* (none but a female pen can do justice to that wonderful tawdry toilette of the lady's-maid *en voyage*) — and a miserable *dame de Compagnie*, are ministering to the wants of her ladyship and her King Charles's spaniel. They are rushing to and fro with Eau-de-Cologne, pocket-handkerchiefs which are all fringe and cypher, and popping mysterious cushions behind and before, and in every available corner of the carriage.

The little Marquis, her husband, is walking about the deck in a bewildered manner, with a lean daughter on each arm: the carrotty-tufted hope of the family is already smoking on the fore-deck in a travelling costume checked all over, and in little lacker-tipped jean boots, and a shirt embroidered with pink boa-constrictors. What is it that gives travelling Snobs such a marvellous propensity to rush into a costume? Why should a man not travel in a coat, &c.? but think proper to dress himself like a harlequin in mourning? See, even young ALDERMANBURY, the tallow-merchant, who has just stepped on board, has got a travelling dress gaping all over with pockets; and little TOM TAPEWORM, the lawyer's clerk out of the City, who has but three weeks' leave, turns out in gaiters and a bran new shooting-jacket, and must let the moustachios grow on his little snuffy upper lip, forsooth!

POMPEY HICKS is giving elaborate directions to his servant, and asking loudly, "DAVIS, where 's the dwessing-case," and

"DAVIS, you'd best take the pistol-case into the cabin." Little POMPEY travels with a dressing-case, and without a beard; whom he is going to shoot with his pistols who on earth can tell? and what he is to do with his servant but wait upon him, I am at a loss to conjecture.

Look at honest NATHAN HOUNSDITCH and his lady, and their little son. What a noble air of blazing contentment illuminates the features of those Snobs of Eastern race! What a toilette HOUNSDITCH's is! What rings and chains, what gold-headed canes and diamonds, what a tuft the rogue has got to his chin (the rogue! he will never spare himself any cheap enjoyment!) Little HOUNSDITCH has a little cane with a gilt head and little mosaic ornaments — altogether an extra air. As for the lady, she is all the colours of the rainbow: she has a pink parasol, with a white lining, and a yellow bonnet, and an emerald green shawl, and a shot silk pelisse; and drab boots and rhubarb-coloured gloves; and party-coloured glass-buttons, expanding from the size of a fourpenny piece to a crown, glitter and twiddle all down the front of her gorgeous costume. I have said before, I like to look at "the Peoples" on their gala days, they are so picturesquely and outrageously splendid and happy.

Yonder comes CAPTAIN BULL; spick and span, tight and trim, who travels for four or six months every year of his life, who does not commit himself by luxury of raiment or insolence of demeanour, but I think is as great a Snob as any man on board. BULL passes the season in London, sponging for dinners, and sleeping in a garret near his Club. Abroad, he has been everywhere; he knows the best wine at every inn in every capital in Europe; lives with the best English company there; has seen every palace and picture-gallery from Madrid to Stockholm; speaks an abominable little jargon of half-a-dozen languages — and knows nothing — nothing. BULL hunts tufts on the Continent, and is a sort of amateur courier. He will scrape acquaintance with old CARABAS before they make Ostend; and will remind his Lordship that he met him at Vienna twenty years ago, or gave him a glass of Schnaps up

the Righi. We have said BULL knows nothing: he knows the birth, arms and pedigree of all the peerage; has poked his little eyes into every one of the carriages on board — their panels noted and their crests surveyed; he knows all the continental stories of English scandal — how COUNT TOWROWSKI run off with Miss BAGGS at Naples — how *very* thick LADY SMIGSMAG was with young CORNICHON of the French legation at Florence — the exact amount which JACK DEUCEACE won of BOB GREENGOOSE at Baden — what it is that made the STAGGS settle on the Continent — the sum for which the O'GOGGARTY'S estate are mortgaged, &c. If he can't catch a lord he will hook on to a baronet, or else the old wretch will catch hold of some beardless young stripling of fashion, and show him "life" in various and amiable and inaccessible quarters. Faugh! the old brute! If he has every one of the vices of the most boisterous youth; at least he is comforted by having no conscience. He is utterly stupid, but of a jovial turn. He believes himself to be quite a respectable member of society; but perhaps the only good action he ever did in his life is the involuntary one of giving an example to be avoided, and showing what an odious thing in the social picture is that figure of the debauched old man who passes through life rather a decorous SILENUS, and dies some day in his garret, alone, unrepenting, and unnoted, save by his astonished heirs, who find that the dissolute old miser has left money behind him. See! he is up to old CARABAS already! I told you he would.

Yonder you see the old LADY MARY MACSCREW, and those middle-aged young women, her daughters; they are going to cheapen and haggle in Belgium and up the Rhine until they meet with a boarding-house where they can live upon less board-wages than her Ladyship pays her footmen. But she will exact and receive considerable respect from the British Snobs located in the watering-place which she selects for her summer-residence, being the daughter of the EARL OF HAGGISTOUN. That broad-shouldered buck, with the great whiskers and the cleaned white-kid gloves, is Mr. PHELM CLANCY, of Poldoodystown; he calls himself MR. DE CLANCY;

he endeavours to disguise his native brogue with the richest superposition of English; and if you play at billiards or *écarté* with him, the chances are that you will win the first game, and he the seven or eight games ensuing.

That overgrown lady with the four daughters, and the young dandy from the University, her son, is MRS. KEWSY, the eminent barrister's lady, who would rather die than not be in the fashion. She has the Peerage in her carpet-bag, you may be sure; but she is altogether cut out by MRS. QUOD, the attorney's wife, whose carriage, with the apparatus of rumbles, dickeys, and imperials, scarcely yields in splendour to the MARQUIS OF CARABAS'S own travelling chariot, and whose courier has even bigger whiskers and a larger morocco money-bag than the Marquis's own travelling gentleman. Remark her well; she is talking to MR. SPOUT, the new member for Jawborough, who is going out to inspect the operations of the Zollverein, and will put some very severe questions to LORD PALMERSTON next Session upon England and her relations with the Prussian-blue trade, the Naples soap trade, the German tinder trade, &c. SPOUT will patronize KING LEOPOLD at Brussels; will write letters from abroad to the *Jawborough Independent*; and, in his quality of *Member du Parliamong Britannique*, will expect to be invited to a family dinner with every sovereign whose dominions he honours with a visit during his tour.

The next person is—but hark! the bell for shore is ringing, and, shaking SNOOK'S hand cordially, we rush on the pier, waving him a farewell as the noble black ship cuts keenly through the sunny azure waters, bearing away that cargo of Snobs outward bound.

CHAPTER XXII.

Continental Snobbery continued.

WE are accustomed to laugh at the French for their brag-gadocio-propensities, and intolerable vanity about la France, la gloire, l'empereur, and the like; and yet I think in my

heart that the British Snob, for conceit and self-sufficiency and braggartism in his way, is without a parallel. There is always something uneasy in a Frenchman's conceit. He brags with so much fury, shrieking, and gesticulation; yells out so loudly that the Français is at the head of civilization, the centre of thought, &c.; that one can't but see the poor fellow has a lurking doubt in his own mind that he is not the wonder he professes to be.

About the British Snob, on the contrary, there is commonly no noise, no bluster, but the calmness of profound conviction. We are better than all the world; we don't question the opinion at all; it's an axiom. And when a Frenchman bellows out, "*La France, Monsieur, la France est à la tête du monde civilisé!*" we laugh good-naturedly at the frantic poor devil. *We* are the first chop of the world: we know the fact so well in our secret hearts, that a claim set up elsewhere is simply ludicrous. My dear brother reader, say, as a man of honour, if you are not of this opinion? Do you think a Frenchman your equal? You don't — you gallant British Snob — you know you don't: no more, perhaps, does the Snob your humble Servant, brother.

And I am inclined to think it is this conviction, and the consequent bearing of the Englishman towards the foreigner whom he condescends to visit, this confidence of superiority which holds up the head of the owner of every English hat-box from Sicily to St. Petersburg, that makes us so magnificently hated throughout Europe as we are; this — more than all our little victories, and of which many Frenchmen and Spaniards have never heard — this amazing and indomitable insular pride, which animates my lord in his travelling-carriage as well as JOHN in the rumble.

If you read the old Chronicles of the French wars, you find precisely the same character of the Englishman, and HENRY V.'s people with just the cool domineering manner of our gallant veterans of France and the Peninsula. Did you never hear COLONEL CUTLER and MAJOR SLASHER talking over the war after dinner? or CAPTAIN BOARDER de-

scribing his action with the Indomptable? "Hang the fellows," says BOARDER, "their practice was very good. I was beat off three times before I took her." "Cuss those carabineers of Milhaud's," says SLASHER, "what work they made of our light cavalry!" implying a sort of surprise that the Frenchmen should stand up against Britons at all; a good-natured wonder that the blind, mad, vain-glorious, brave, poor devils, should actually have the courage to resist an Englishman. Legions of such Englishmen are patronising Europe at this moment, being kind to the Pope, or good-natured to the KING OF HOLLAND, or condescending to inspect the Prussian reviews. When NICHOLAS came here, who reviews a quarter of a million of pairs of moustachios to his breakfast every morning, we took him off to Windsor and showed him two whole regiments of six or eight hundred Britons a-piece, with an air as much as to say, — "There, my boy, look at *that*. Those are *Englishmen*, those are, and your master whenever you please," as the nursery song says. The British Snob is long, long past scepticism, and can afford to laugh quite good-humouredly at those conceited Yankees, or besotted little Frenchmen, who set up as models of mankind. *They* forsooth!

I have been led into these remarks by listening to an old fellow at the Hotel du Nord, at Boulogne, and who is evidently of the SLASHER sort. He came down and seated himself at the breakfast-table, with a surly scowl on his salmon-coloured blood-shot face, strangling in a tight, cross-barred cravat; his linen and his appointments so perfectly stiff and spotless that everybody at once recognised him as a dear countryman. Only our port-wine and other admirable institutions could have produced a figure so insolent, so stupid, so gentlemanlike. After a while our attention was called to him by his roaring out, in a voice of plethoric fury, "O!"

Everybody turned round at the O, conceiving the Colonel to be, as his countenance denoted him, in intense pain; but the waiters knew better, and instead of being alarmed,

brought the Colonel the kettle. O, it appears, is the French for hot-water. The Colonel (though he despises it heartily) thinks he speaks the language remarkably well. Whilst he was inhasting his smoking tea, which went rolling and gurgling down his throat, and hissing over the "hot coppers" of that respectable veteran, a friend joined him, with a wizened face and very black wig, evidently a Colonel too.

The two warriors, waggling their old heads at each other, presently joined breakfast, and fell into conversation, and we had the advantage of hearing about the old war, and some pleasant conjectures as to the next, which they considered imminent. They psha'd the French fleet; they pooh-pooh'd the French Commercial Marine; they showed how, in a war, there would be a cordon (a cordong, by —) of steamers along our coast, and by — ready at a minute to land anywhere on the other shore, to give the French as good a thrashing as they got in the last war, by —. In fact, a rumbling cannonade of oaths was fired by the two veterans during the whole of their conversation.

There was a Frenchman in the room, but as he had not been above ten years in London, of course he did not speak the language, and lost the benefit of the conversation. "But oh, my country!" says I to myself, "it's no wonder that you are so beloved! If I were a Frenchman, how I would hate you!"

That brutal ignorant peevish bully of an Englishman is showing himself in every city of Europe. One of the dullest creatures under Heaven, he goes trampling Europe under foot, shouldering his way into galleries and cathedrals, and bustling into palaces with his buckram uniform. At church or theatre, gala or picture gallery, *his* face never varies. A thousand delightful sights pass before his blood-shot eyes, and don't affect him. Countless brilliant scenes of life and manners are shown him, but never move him. He goes to church, and calls the practices there degrading and superstitious, as if *his* altar was the only one that was acceptable. He goes to picture-galleries, and is more ignorant about Art

than a French shoe-black. Art, Nature pass, and there is no dot of admiration in his stupid eyes; nothing moves him, except when a very great man comes his way, and then the rigid proud self-confident inflexible British Snob can be as humble as a flunky and as supple as a harlequin.

CHAPTER XXIII.

English Snobs on the Continent.

"WHAT is the use of LORD ROSSE's telescope?" my friend PANWISKI exclaimed the other day. "It only enables you to see a few hundred thousands of miles farther. What were thought to be mere nebulae, turn out to be most perceivable starry systems; and beyond these, you see other nebulae, which a more powerful glass will show to be stars, again; and so they go on glittering and winking away into eternity." With which my friend PAN, heaving a great sigh, as if confessing his inability to look Infinity in the face, sank back resigned, and swallowed a large bumper of Claret.

I (who, like other great men, have but one idea), thought to myself, that as the stars are, so are the Snobs: — the more you gaze upon those luminaries, the more you behold — now nebulously congregated — now faintly distinguishable — now brightly defined — until they twinkle off in endless blazes, and fade into the immeasurable darkness. I am but as a child playing on the sea-shore. Some telescopic philosopher will arise one day, some great Snobonomer, to find the laws of the great science which we are now merely playing with, and to define, and settle, and classify that which is at present but vague theory, and loose, though elegant assertion.

Yes: a single eye can but trace a very few and simple varieties of the enormous universe of Snobs. I sometimes think of appealing to the public, and calling together a congress of *savants*, such as met at Southampton — each to bring his contributions and read his paper on the Great Subject. For what can a single poor few do, even with the subject at present in hand? English Snobs on the Continent — though

they are a hundred thousand times less numerous than on their native island, yet even these few are too many. One can only fix a stray one here and there. The individuals are caught — the thousands escape. I have noted down but three whom I have met with in my walk this morning through this pleasant marine city of Boulogne.

There is the English RAFF Snob, that frequents *estaminets* and *cabarets*; who is heard yelling, "We won't go home till morning!" and startling the midnight echoes of quiet continental towns with shrieks of English slang. The boozy unshorn wretch is seen hovering round quays as packets arrive, and tippling drams in inn bars where he gets credit. He talks French with slang familiarity: he and his like quite people the debt-prisons on the Continent. He plays pool at the billiard-houses, and may be seen engaged at cards and dominoes of forenoons. His signature is to be seen on countless bills of exchange: it belonged to an honourable family once, very likely; for the English RAFF most probably began by being a gentleman, and has a father over the water who is ashamed to hear his name. He has cheated the old "governor" repeatedly in better days, and swindled his sisters of their portions, and robbed his younger brothers. Now he is living on his wife's jointure: she is hidden away in some dismal garret, patching shabby finery and cobbling up old clothes for her children — the most miserable and slatternly of women.

Or sometimes the poor woman and her daughters go about timidly, giving lessons in English and music, or do embroidery and work under-hand, to purchase the means for the *potau-feu*; while RAFF is swaggering on the quay, or tossing off glasses of Cognac at the *Café*. The unfortunate creature has a child still every year, and her constant hypocrisy is to try and make her girls believe that their father is a respectable man, and to huddle him out of the way, when the brute comes home drunk.

Those poor ruined souls get together and have a society of their own, the which it is very affecting to watch — those

tawdry pretences at gentility, those flimsy attempts at gaiety: those woful sallies: that jingling old piano; O, it makes the heart sick to see and hear them! As MRS. RAFF, with her company of pale daughters, gives a penny tea to MRS. DIDDLE, and they talk about bygone times and the fine society they kept; and they sing feeble songs out of tattered old music-books, and while engaged in this sort of entertainment, in comes CAPTAIN RAFF with his greasy hat on one side, and straightway the whole of the dismal room reeks with a mingled odour of smoke and spirits.

Has not everybody who has lived abroad met CAPTAIN RAFF? His name is proclaimed, every now and then, by MR. SHERIFF'S OFFICER HEMP; and about Boulogne, and Paris, and Brussels, there are so many of his sort that I will lay a wager that I shall be accused of gross personality for showing him up. Many a less irreclaimable villain is transported; many a more honourable man is at present at the tread-mill; and although we are the noblest, greatest, most religious, and most moral people in the world, I would still like to know where, except in the United Kingdom, debts are a matter of joke, and making tradesmen "suffer" a sport that gentlemen own to? It is dishonourable to owe money in France. You never heard people in other parts of Europe brag of their swindling; or see a prison in a large continental town which is not more or less peopled with English rogues.

A still more loathsome and dangerous Snob than the above transparent and passive scamp, is frequent on the continent of Europe, and my young Snob friends who are travelling thither should be especially warned against him. CAPTAIN LEGG is a gentleman, like RAFF, though perhaps of a better degree. He has robbed his family too, but of a great deal more, and has boldly dishonoured bills for thousands, where RAFF has been boggling over the clumsy conveyance of a ten-pound note. LEGG is always at the best inn, with the finest waistcoats and moustachios, or tearing about in the flashest of

britzkas, while poor RAFF is tipsifying himself with spirits, and smoking cheap tobacco. It is amazing to think that LEGG, so often shown up, and known every where, is flourishing yet. He would sink into utter ruin, but for the constant and ardent love of gentility that distinguishes the English Snob. There is many a young fellow of the middle classes who must know LEGG to be a rogue and a cheat; and yet from his desire to be in the fashion, and his admiration of tip-top swells, and from his ambition to air himself by the side of Lord's son, will let LEGG make an income out of him; content to pay, so long as he can enjoy that society. Many a worthy father of a family, when he hears that his son is riding about with CAPTAIN LEGG, LORD LEVANT'S son, is rather pleased that young Hopeful should be in such good company.

LEGG and his friend, MAJOR MACER, make professional tours through Europe, and are to be found at the right places at the right time. Last year I heard how my young acquaintance, MR. MUFF, from Oxford, going to see a little life at a Carnival ball at Paris, was accosted by an Englishman who did not know a word of the d— language, and hearing MUFF speak it so admirably, begged him to interpret to a waiter with whom there was a dispute about refreshments. It was quite a comfort, the stranger said, to see an honest English face; and did MUFF know where there was a good place for supper? So those two went to supper, and who should come in, of all men in the world, but MAJOR MACER? And so LEGG introduced MACER, and so there came on a little intimacy, and three-card loo, &c., &c. Year after year scores of MUFFS, in various places in the world, are victimised by LEGG and MACER. The story is so stale, the trick of seduction so entirely old and clumsy, that it is only a wonder people can be taken in any more; but the temptations of vice and gentility together are too much for young English Snobs, and those simple young victims are caught fresh every day. Though it is only to be kicked and cheated by men of fashion, your true British Snob will present himself for the honour.

I need not allude here to that very common British Snob,

who makes desperate efforts at becoming intimate with the great continental aristocracy, such as old ROLLS, the baker, who has set up his quarters in the Faubourg Saint Germain, and will receive none but Carlists, and no French gentleman under the rank of a Marquis. We can all of us laugh at *that* fellow's pretensions well enough — we who tremble before a great man of our own nation. But, as you say, my brave and honest JOHN BULL of a Snob, a French Marquis of twenty descents is very different from an English Peer; and a pack of beggarly German and Italian Fürsten and Principi awaken the scorn of an honest-minded Briton. But OUR aristocracy — that's a very different matter. They are the real leaders of the world — the real old original and-no-mistake nobility. Off with your cap, Snob; down on your knees, Snob, and truckle.

CHAPTER XXIV.

On some Country Snobs.

TIRED of the town, where the sight of the closed shutters of the nobility, my friends, makes my heart sick in my walks; afraid almost to sit in those vast Pall Mall solitudes, the Clubs, and of annoying the Club waiters, who might, I thought, be going to shoot in the country, but for me, I determined on a brief tour in the provinces, and paying some visits in the country which were long due.

My first visit was to my friend MAJOR PONTO, (H.P. of the Horse Marines,) in Mangelwurzels-shire. The Major in his little phæton, was in waiting to take me up at the station. The vehicle was not certainly splendid, but such a carriage as would accommodate a plain man (as PONTO said he was) and a numerous family. We drove by beautiful fresh fields and green hedges, though a cheerful English landscape; the high road, as smooth and trim as the way in a nobleman's park, was charmingly checkered with cool shade and golden sunshine. Rustics in snowy smock-frocks, jerked their hats off smiling as we passed. Children, with cheeks as red as the apples in

the orchards, bobbed curtsies to us at the cottage-doors. Blue church spires rose here and there in the distance: and as the buxom gardener's wife opened the white gate at the Major's little ivy-covered lodge, and we drove through the neat plantations of firs and evergreens, up to the house, my bosom felt a joy and elation which I thought it was impossible to experience in the smoky atmosphere of a town. "Here," I mentally exclaimed, "is all peace, plenty, happiness. Here, I shall be rid of SNOBS. There can be none in this charming Arcadian spot."

STRIPES, the Major's man (formerly corporal in his gallant corps), received my portmanteau, and an elegant little present, which I had brought from town as a peace-offering to MRS. PONTO; viz., a cod and oysters from GROVES'S, in a hamper about the size of a coffin.

PONTO's house ("The Evergreens" Mrs. P. has christened it) is a perfect Paradise of a place. It is all over creepers, and bow-windows, and verandahs. A wavy lawn tumbles up and down all round it, with flower-beds of wonderful shapes, and zigzag gravel walks, and beautiful but damp shrubberies of myrtles and glistening laurustinums, which have procured it its change of name. It was called Little Bullock's Pound in old DOCTOR PONTO's time. I had a view of the pretty grounds, and the stable, and the adjoining village and church, and a great park beyond, from the windows of the bed-room whither PONTO conducted me. It was the yellow bed-room, the freshest and pleasantest of bed-chambers; the air was fragrant with a large bouquet that was placed on the writing table; the linen was fragrant with the lavender in which it had been laid; the chintz hangings of the bed and the big sofa were, if not fragrant with flowers, at least painted all over with them; the pen-wiper on the table was the imitation of a double dahlia; and there was accommodation for my watch in a sun-flower on the mantelpiece. A scarlet-leaved creeper came curling over the windows, through which the setting sun was pouring a flood of golden light. It was all flowers and freshness. O how unlike those black chimney-

pots in St. Alban's Place, London, on which these weary eyes are accustomed to look.

"It must be all happiness here, PONTO," said I, flinging myself down into the snug *bergère*, and inhaling such a delicious draught of country air as all the *millefleurs* of Mr. ATKINSON'S shop cannot impart to any the most expensive pocket handkerchief.

"Nice place, isn't it?" said PONTO. "Quiet and unpretending. I like everything quiet. You've not brought your valet with you? STRIPES will arrange your dressing things;" and that functionary, entering at the same time, proceeded to gut my portmanteau, and to lay out the black kerseymeres, "the rich cut velvet Genoa waistcoat," the white choker, and other polite articles of evening costume, with great gravity and dispatch. "A great dinner-party," thinks I to myself, seeing these preparations (and not, perhaps, displeased at the idea that some of the best people in the neighbourhood were coming to see me). "Hark, there's the first bell ringing!" said PONTO, moving away; and, in fact, a clamorous harbinger of victuals began clanging from the stable turret, and announced the agreeable fact that dinner would appear in half-an-hour. "If the dinner is as grand as the dinner-bell," thought I, "faith, I'm in good quarters!" and had leisure, during the half-hour's interval, not only to advance my own person to the utmost polish of elegance which it is capable of receiving, to admire the pedigree of the PONTOS hanging over the chimney, and the PONTO crest and arms emblazoned on the wash-hand basin and jug, but to make a thousand reflections on the happiness of a country life — upon the innocent friendliness and cordiality of rustic intercourse; and to sigh for an opportunity of retiring, like PONTO, to my own fields, to my own vine and fig-tree, with a *placens uxor* in my *domus*, and a half-score of sweet young pledges of affection sporting round my paternal knee.

Clang! At the end of the thirty minutes, dinner-bell number two pealed from the adjacent turret. I hastened down

stairs, expecting to find a score of healthy country folks in the drawing-room. There was only one person there; a tall and Roman-nosed lady, glistening over with bugles, in deep mourning. She rose, advanced two steps, made a majestic curtsey, during which all the bugles in her awful head-dress began to twiddle and quiver — and then said, “MR. SNOB, we are very happy to see you at the Evergreens,” and heaved a great sigh.

This, then, was MRS. MAJOR PONTO; to whom, making my very best bow, I replied, that I was very proud to make her acquaintance, as also that of so charming a place as the Evergreens.

Another sigh. “We are distantly related, MR. SNOB,” said she, shaking her melancholy head. “Poor dear LORD RUBADUB!”

“O,” says I; not knowing what the deuce MRS. MAJOR PONTO meant.

“MAJOR PONTO told me that you were of the Leicestershire Snobs; a very old family, and related to LORD SNOBBINGTON, who married LAURA RUBADUB, who is a cousin of mine, as was her poor dear father, for whom we are in mourning. What a seizure! only sixty-three, and apoplexy quite unknown until now in our family! In life we are in death, MR. SNOB. Does LADY SNOBBINGTON bear the deprivation well?”

“Why, really Ma’am, I — I don’t know,” I replied, more and more confused.

As she was speaking I heard a sort of *cloop*, by which well-known sound I was aware that somebody was opening a bottle of wine, and Ponto entered, in a huge white neckcloth, and a rather shabby black suit.

“My love,” MRS. MAJOR PONTO said to her husband; “we were talking of our cousin — poor dear Lord RUBADUB. His death has placed some of the first families in England in mourning. Does LADY RUBADUB keep the house in Hill Street, do you know?”

I didn’t know, but I said, “I believe she does,” at a venture; and, looking down on the drawing-room table, saw the in-

evitable, abominable, maniacal, absurd, disgusting *Peerage*, open on the table, interleaved with annotations, and open at the article "SNOBBINGTON."

"Dinner is served," says STRIPES, flinging open the door; and I gave MRS. MAJOR PONTO my arm.

CHAPTER XXV.

A visit to some Country Snobs.

OF the dinner to which we now sate down, I am not going to be a severe critic. The mahogany I hold to be inviolable; but this I will say, that I prefer Sherry to Marsala when I can get it, and the latter was the wine of which I have no doubt I heard the "cloop" just before dinner. Nor was it particularly good of its kind: however, MRS. MAJOR PONTO did not evidently know the difference, for she called the liquor Amon-tillado during the whole of the repast, and drank but half a glass of it, leaving the rest for the Major and his guest.

STRIPES was in the livery of the PONTO family — a thought shabby but gorgeous in the extreme — lots of magnificent worsted lace, and livery buttons of a very notable size. The honest fellow's hands, I remarked, were very large and black; and a fine odour of the stable was wafted about the room as he moved to and fro in his ministration. I should have preferred a clean maid-servant, but the sensations of Londoners are too acute perhaps on these subjects; and a faithful JOHN, after all, is more genteel.

From the circumstance of the dinner being composed of pig's-head mock-turtle soup, of pig's-fry and roast ribs of pork, I am led to imagine that one of PONTO's black Hampshires had been sacrificed a short time previous to my visit. It was an excellent and comfortable repast; only there *was* rather a sameness in it, certainly. I made a similar remark the next day.

During the dinner MRS. PONTO asked me many questions regarding the nobility, my relatives. "When LADY ANGELINA SKEGGS would come out; and if the Countess, her

Mamma, (this was said with much archness and he-he-ing) still wore that extraordinary purple hair dye?" "Whether my LORD GUTTLEBURY kept, besides his French chef, and an English cordon-bleu for the roasts, an Italian for the confectionary?" "Who attended at LADY CLAPPERCLAW's conversazioni?" and "Whether SIR JOHN CHAMPIGNON's Thursday Mornings' were pleasant?" "Was it true that LADY CARABAS, wanting to pawn her diamonds, found that they were paste, and that the Marquess had disposed of them beforehand?" "How was it that SNUFFIN, the great tobacco merchant, broke off the marriage which was on the tapis between him and their second daughter; and was it true that a mulatto lady came over from the Havanna and forbid the match?"

"Upon my word, Madam," I had begun, and was going on to say that I didn't know one word about all these matters which seemed so to interest MRS. MAJOR PONTO, when the Major, giving me a tread or stamp with his large foot under the table, said —

"Come, come, Snob, my boy, we are all tiled, you know. We *know* you're one of the fashionable people about town: *we* saw your name at LADY CLAPPERCLAW's *soirées*, and the CHAMPIGNON breakfasts; and as for the RUBADUBS, of course, as relations —" * * * *

"Oh, of course, I dine there twice a week," I said; and then I remembered that my cousin, HUMPHRY SNOB, of the Middle Temple, is a great frequenter of genteel societies, and to have seen his name in the *Morning Post* at the tag end of several party lists. So, taking the hint, I am ashamed to say I indulged MRS. MAJOR PONTO with a deal of information about the first families in England, such as would astonish those great personages if they knew them. I described to her most accurately the three reigning beauties of last season at AL-MACK'S: told her in confidence that HIS GRACE THE D — OF W — was going to be married the day after his Statue was put up: that HIS GRACE THE D — OF D — was also about to lead the fourth daughter of the ARCHDUKE STEPHEN to the hyme-

neal altar: — and talked to her, in a word, just in the style of MRS. GORE's last fashionable novel.

MRS. MAJOR was quite fascinated by this brilliant conversation. She began to trot out scraps of French, just for all the world as they do in the novels; and kissed her hand to me quite graciously, telling me to come soon to *caffy*, *ung pu de Musick o salong* — with which she tripped off like an elderly fairy.

“Shall I open a bottle of Port, or do you ever drink such a thing as Hollands and water?” says PONTO, looking ruefully at me. This was a very different style of thing to what I had been led to expect from him at our smoking-room at the Club: where he swaggers about his horses and his cellar; and slapping me on the shoulder used to say, “Come down to Mangelwurzelshire, Snob, my boy, and I'll give you as good a day's shooting, and as good a glass of Claret as any in the county.” — “Well,” I said, “I liked Hollands much better than Port, and Gin even better than Hollands.” This was lucky. It *was* Gin; and STRIPES brought in hot water on a splendid plated tray.

The jingling of a harp and piano soon announced that MRS. PONTO's *ung pu de Musick* had commenced, and the smell of the stable again entering the dining-room, in the person of STRIPES, summoned us to *caffy* and the little concert. She beckoned me with a winning smile to the sofa, on which she made room for me, and where we could command a fine view of the backs of the young ladies who were performing the musical entertainment. Very broad backs they were too, strictly according to the present mode, for crinoline or its substitutes is not an expensive luxury, and young people in the country can afford to be in the fashion at very trifling charges. Miss EMILY PONTO at the piano, and her sister MARIA at that somewhat exploded instrument, the harp, were in light blue dresses that looked all flounce and spread out like MR. GREEN's balloon when inflated.

“Brilliant touch EMILY has — what a fine arm MARIA's is,” MRS. PONTO remarked good-naturedly, pointing out the

merits of her daughters, and waving her own arm in such a way as to show that she was not a little satisfied with the beauty of that member. I observed she had about nine bracelets and bangles, consisting of chains and padlocks, the Major's miniature, and a variety of brass serpents with fiery ruby or tender turquoise eyes, writhing up to her elbow almost, in the most profuse contortions.

"You recognise those polkas? They were played at Devonshire House on the 23rd of July, the day of the grand fête?" So I said yes — I knew 'em quite intimately; and began wagging my head as if in acknowledgment of those old friends.

When the performance was concluded, I had the felicity of a presentation and conversation with the two tall and scraggy Miss PONTOS; and Miss WIRT, the governess, sate down to entertain us with variations on "Sich a gettin' up stairs." They were determined to be in the fashion.

For the performance of the "Gettin' up Stairs," I have no other name but that it was *a stunner*. First Miss WIRT, with great deliberation, played the original and beautiful melody, cutting it, as it were, out of the instrument, and firing off each note so loud, clear, and sharp, that I am sure STRIPES must have heard it in the stable.

"What a finger!" says MRS. PONTO; and indeed it *was* a finger, as knotted as a turkey's drumstick, and splaying all over the piano. When she had banged out the tune slowly, she began a different manner of "Gettin' up Stairs," and did so with a fury and swiftness quite incredible. She spun up stairs; she whirled up stairs; she galloped up stairs; she rattled up stairs; and then, having got the tune to the top landing, as it were, she hurled it down again shrieking to the bottom floor, where it sank in a crash as if exhausted by the breathless rapidity of the descent. Then Miss WIRT played the "Gettin' up Stairs" with the most pathetic and ravishing solemnity: plaintive moans and sobs issued from the keys — you wept and trembled as you were gettin' up stairs. Miss WIRT's hands seemed to faint and wail and die in variations: again, and she went up with a savage clang and rush of trum-

pets, as if Miss WIRT was storming a breach; and although I knew nothing of music, as I sate and listened with my mouth open to this wonderful display, my *caffy* grew cold, and I wondered the windows did not crack and the chandelier start out of the beam at the sound of this earthquake of a piece of music.

"Glorious creature! Isn't she?" said MRS. PONTO. "SQUIRTZ's favourite pupil — inestimable to have such a creature. LADY CARABAS would give her eyes for her! A prodigy of accomplishments! Thank you, Miss WIRT!" — and the young ladies gave a heave and a gasp of admiration — a deep-breathing gushing sound, such as you hear at church when the sermon comes to a full stop.

MISS WIRT put her two great double-knuckled hands round a waist of her two pupils, and said, "My dear children, I hope you will be able to play it soon as well as your poor little governess. When I lived with the DUNSINANES, it was the dear Duchess's favourite, and LADY BARBARA and LADY JANE MC BETH learned it. It was while hearing JANE play that, I remember, that dear LORD CASTLETODDY first fell in love with her? and though he is but an Irish Peer, with not more than fifteen thousand a year, I persuaded JANE to have him. Do you know Castletoddy, Mr. SNOB? — round towers — sweet place — County Mayo. Old LORD CASTLETODDY (the present Lord was then LORD INISHOWAN) was a most eccentric old man — they say he was mad. I heard his Royal Highness the poor dear DUKE OF SUSSEX — (*such* a man, my dears, but alas! addicted to smoking!) — I heard his Royal Highness say to the MARQUIS OF ANGLESEA, 'I am sure CASTLETODDY is mad!' but INISHOWAN wasn't, in marrying my sweet JANE, though the dear child had but her ten thousand pounds *pour tout potage!*"

"Most invaluable person," whispered MRS. MAJOR PONTO to me. "Has lived in the very highest society:" and I, who have been accustomed to see governesses bullied in the world, was delighted to find this one ruling the roast, and to think that even the majestic MRS. PONTO bent before her.

As for *my* pipe, so to speak, it went out at once. I hadn't a word to say against a woman who was intimate with every Duchess in the Red Book. She wasn't the rose-bud, but she had been near it. She had rubbed shoulders with the great, and about these we talked all the evening incessantly, and about the fashions, and about the Court, until bed-time came.

"And are there SNOBS in this Elysium?" I exclaimed, jumping into the lavender-perfumed bed. PONTO's snoring boomed from the neighbouring bed-room in reply.

CHAPTER XXVI.

On some Country Snobs.

SOMETHING like a journal of the proceedings of the Evergreens may be interesting to those foreign readers of *Punch*, who want to know the customs of an English gentleman's family and household. There's plenty of time to keep the Journal. Piano strumming begins at six o'clock in the morning; it lasts till breakfast, with but a minute's intermission, when the instrument changes hands, and Miss EMILY practises in place of her sister, MISS MARIA.

In fact, the confounded instrument never stops: when the young ladies are at their lessons, Miss WIRT hammers away at those stunning variations, and keeps her magnificent finger in exercise.

I asked this great creature in what other branches of education she instructed her pupils? "The modern languages," says she modestly, "French, German, Spanish, and Italian, Latin and the rudiments of Greek if desired. English of course; the practice of Elocution, Geography and Astronomy, and the Use of the Globes, Algebra, (but only as far as quadratic equations); for a poor ignorant female, you know, MR. SNOB, cannot be expected to know everything. Ancient and Modern History no young woman can be without;

and of these I make my beloved pupils *perfect mistresses*. Botany, Geology, and Mineralogy, I consider as amusements. And with these I assure you we manage to pass the days at the Evergreens not unpleasantly."

Only these, thought I — what an education! But I looked in one of Miss PONTO's manuscript song-books and found five faults of French in four words: and in a waggish mood asking Miss WIRT whether DANTE ALGIERY was so called because he was born at Algiers? received a smiling answer in the affirmative, which made me rather doubt about the accuracy of Miss WIRT's knowledge.

When the above little morning occupations are concluded, these unfortunate young women perform what they call Calisthenic Exercises in the garden. I saw them to-day, without any crinoline, pulling the garden roller.

Dear MRS. PONTO was in the garden too, and as limp as her daughters; in a faded bandeau of hair, in a battered bonnet, in a holland pinafore, in pattens, on a broken chair, snipping leaves off a vine. MRS. PONTO measures many yards about in an evening. Ye heavens! what a guy she is in that skeleton morning costume!

Besides STRIPES, they keep a boy called THOMAS or TUMMUS. TUMMUS works in the garden or about the pigstye and stable; THOMAS wears a page's costume of eruptive buttons.

When anybody calls, and STRIPES is out of the way, TUMMUS flings himself like mad into THOMAS's clothes, and comes out metamorphosed like Harlequin in the pantomime. To-day, as MRS. P. was cutting the grape-vine, as the young ladies were at the roller, down comes TUMMUS like a roaring whirlwind, with "Missus, Missus, there's company coomin!" Away skurry the young ladies from the roller, down comes MRS. P. from the old chair, off flies TUMMUS to change his clothes, and in an incredibly short space of time SIR JOHN

HAWBUCK, my LADY HAWBUCK, and MASTER HUGH HAWBUCK are introduced into the garden with brazen effrontery by THOMAS, who says, "Please SIR JAN and my Lady to walk this year way: *I know* Missus is in the rose-garden."

And there, sure enough, she was!

In a pretty little garden bonnet, with beautiful curling ringlets, with the smartest of aprons and the freshest of pearl-coloured gloves, this amazing woman was in the arms of her dearest LADY HAWBUCK. "Dearest LADY HAWBUCK, how good of you! Always among my flowers! can't live away from them!"

"Sweets to the sweet! hum—aha—haw!" says SIR JOHN HAWBUCK, who piques himself on his gallantry, and says nothing without "a-hum — a-ha — a-haw!"

"Whereth yaw pinnafaw?" cries MASTER HUGH, "*We* thaw you in it, over the wall, didn't we, Pa?"

"Hum — a-ha — a-haw!" burst out SIR JOHN, dreadfully alarmed, "Where's PONTO? Why wasn't he at Quarter Sessions? How are his birds this year, MRS. PONTO — have those Carabas pheasants done any harm to your wheat? a-hum — a-ha — a-haw!" and all this while he was making the most ferocious and desperate signals to his youthful heir.

"Well, she *wath* in her pinnafaw, wathn't she Ma?" says HUGH, quite unabashed; which question LADY HAWBUCK turned away with a sudden query regarding her dear, darling daughters, and the *enfant terrible* was removed by his father.

"I hope you weren't disturbed by the music," PONTO says. "My girls, you know, practise four hours a-day, you know—must do it, you know — absolutely necessary. As for me, you know I'm an early man, and in my farm every morning at five — no, no laziness for *me*."

The facts are these. PONTO goes to sleep directly after dinner on entering the drawing-room, and wakes up when the ladies leave off practice at ten. From seven till ten, and from

ten till five, is a very fair allowance of slumber for a man who says he's *not* a lazy man. It is my private opinion, that when PONTO retires to what is called his "Study," he sleeps too. He locks himself up there daily two hours with the newspaper.

I saw the *Hawbuck* scene out of the Study which commands the garden. It's a curious object, that Study. PONTO's library mostly consists of boots. He and STRIPES have important interviews here of mornings, when the potatoes are discussed, or the fate of the calf ordained, or sentence passed on the pig, &c. All the major's bills are docketted on the Study table and displayed like a lawyer's briefs. Here, too, lie displayed his hooks, knives, and other gardening irons, his whistles, and strings of spare buttons. He has a drawer of endless brown paper for parcels, and another containing a prodigious and never-failing supply of string. What a man can want with so many gig-whips I can never conceive. These, and fishing-rods, and landing-nets, and spurs, and boot-trees, and balls for horses, and surgical implements for the same, and favourite pots of shiny blacking, with which he paints his own shoes in the most elegant manner, and buckskin gloves stretched out on their trees, and his gorget, sash, and sabre of the Horse Marines, with his boot-hooks underneath in a trophy; and the family medicine-chest, and in a corner the very rod with which he used to whip his son, WELLESLEY PONTO, when a boy (WELLESLEY never entered the "Study" but for that awful purpose) — all these, with *Mogg's Road Book*, the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, and a backgammon board, form the MAJOR's library. Under the trophy there's a picture of MRS. PONTO, in a light-blue dress and train, and no waist, when she was first married; a fox's brush lies over the frame, and serves to keep the dust off that work of art.

"My library's small," says PONTO, with the most amazing impudence, "but well selected, my boy — well selected. I have been reading the *History of England* all the morning."

CHAPTER XXVII.

A visit to some Country Snobs.

WE had the fish, which, as the kind reader may remember, I had brought down in a delicate attention to MRS. PONTO, to variegate the repast of next day; and cod and oyster sauce, twice laid, salt cod and scolloped oysters, formed parts of the bill of fare; until I began to fancy that the PONTO family, like our late revered monarch GEORGE II., had a fancy for stale fish. And about this time the pig being consumed, we began upon a sheep.

But how shall I forget the solemn splendour of a second course, which was served up in great state by STRIPES in a silver dish and cover, a napkin twisted round his dirty thumbs; and consisted of a landrail, not much bigger than a corpulent sparrow.

"My love, will you take any game?" says PONTO, with prodigious gravity; and stuck his fork into that little mouthful of an island in the silver sea. STRIPES, too, at intervals, dribbled out the Marsala with a solemnity which would have done honour to a Duke's butler. The BARMECIDE's dinner to SHACABAC was only one degree removed from these solemn banquets.

As there were plenty of pretty country places close by; a comfortable country town, with good houses of gentlefolks; a beautiful old parsonage, close to the church whither we went, (and where the CARABAS family have their ancestral carved and monumented gothic pew) and every appearance of good society in the neighbourhood, I rather wondered we were not enlivened by the appearance of some of the neighbours at the Evergreens, and asked about them.

"We can't in our position of life — we can't well associate with the attorney's family, as I leave you to suppose," said MRS. PONTO, confidentially. "Of course not," I answered, though I didn't know why. "And the Doctor?" said I.

"A most excellent worthy creature," says MRS. P., "saved MARIA's life — really a learned man; but what can one do in one's position? One may ask one's medical man to one's table certainly: but his family, my dear MR. SNOB!"

"Half a dozen little gallipots," interposed MISS WIRT, the governess: he, he, he! and the young ladies laughed in chorus.

"We only live with the country families," MISS WIRT * continued, tossing up her head. "The Duke is abroad: we are at feud with the CARABASES; the RINGWOODS don't come down till Christmas: in fact, nobody's here till the hunting season — positively nobody."

"Whose is the large red house just outside of the town?"

"What! the *château-calicot*? he, he, he! That purse-proud ex-linendraper, MR. YARDLEY, with the yellow liveries, and the wife in red velvet? How *can* you, my dear MR. SNOB, be so satirical? The impertinence of those people is really something quite overwhelming."

"Well, then there's the parson, DOCTOR CHRYSOSTOM. He's a gentleman, at any rate."

At this MRS. PONTO looked at MISS WIRT. After their eyes had met and they had wagged their heads at each other, they looked up to the ceiling. So did the young ladies. They thrilled. It was evident I had said something very terrible. Another black sheep in the Church? thought I, with a little sorrow; for I don't care to own that I have a respect for the cloth. "I — I hope there's nothing wrong?"

"Wrong? says MRS. P. clasping her hands with a tragic air.

* I have since heard that this aristocratic lady's father was a livery-button maker in St. Martin's Lane: where he met with misfortunes, and his daughter acquired her taste for heraldry. But it may be told to her credit, that out of her earnings she has kept the bed-ridden old bankrupt in great comfort and secrecy at Pentonville; and furnished her brother's outfit for the Cadetship which her patron, LORD SWIGGLEBIGGLE, gave her when he was at the Board of Control. I have this information from a friend. To hear MISS WIRT herself, you would fancy that her Papa was a ROTHSCHILD, and that the markets of Europe were convulsed when he went into the *Gazette*.

"Oh!" says MISS WIRT, and the two girls, gasping in chorus.

"Well," says I, "I'm very sorry for it. I never saw a nicer-looking old gentleman, or a better school, or heard a better sermon."

"He used to preach those sermons in a surplice" hissed out MRS. PONTO. "He's A PUSEYITE, MR. SNOB."

"Heavenly powers!" says I, admiring the pure ardour of these female theologians; and STRIPES came in with the tea. It's so weak that no wonder PONTO's sleep isn't disturbed by it.

Of mornings we used to go out shooting. We had PONTO's own fields to sport over (where we got the fieldfare), and the non-preserved part of the HAWBUCK property: and one evening, in a stubble of PONTO's, skirting the Carabas woods, we got among some pheasants, and had some real sport. I shot a hen, I know, greatly to my delight. "Bag it," says PONTO, in rather a hurried manner, "here's somebody coming." So I pocketed the bird.

"You infernal poaching thieves!" roars out a man from the hedge in the garb of a gamekeeper. "I wish I could catch you on this side of the hedge. I'd put a brace of barrels into you, that I would."

"Curse that SNAPPER," says PONTO, moving off; "he's always watching me like a spy."

"Carry off the birds, you sneaks, and sell 'em to London," roars the individual, who it appears was a keeper of LORD CARABAS. "You'll get six shillings a brace for 'em."

"You know the price of 'em well enough, and so does your master too, you scoundrel," says PONTO, still retreating.

"We kills 'em on our ground," cries MR. SNAPPER. "We don't set traps for other people's birds. We're no decoy ducks. We're no sneaking poachers. We don't shoot 'ens, like that ere Cockney, who's got the tail of one a-sticking out of his pocket. Only just come across the hedge, that's all."

"I tell you what," says STRIPES, who was out with us as keeper this day, (in fact he's keeper, coachman, gardener, valet, and bailiff, with TUMMUS under him,) "if *you'll* come across, JOHN SNAPPER, and take your coat off, I'll give you such a wapping as you've never had since the last time I did it at Guttlebury Fair."

"Wap one of your own weight," Mr. SNAPPER said, whistling his dogs and disappearing into the wood. And so we came out of this controversy rather victoriously; but I began to alter my preconceived ideas of rural felicity.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

On some Country Snobs.

"BE hanged to your aristocrats!" PONTO said, in some conversation we had regarding the family at Carabas, between whom and the Evergreens there was a feud, — "When I first came into the County — it was the year before SIR JOHN BUFF contested in the Blue interest — the MARQUIS, then LORD ST. MICHAELS, who, of course, was Orange to the core, paid me and MRS. PONTO such attentions, that I fairly confess I was taken in by the old humbug, and thought that I'd met with a rare neighbour. 'Gad, Sir, we used to get pines from Carabas, and pheasants from Carabas, and it was — 'PONTO, when will you come over and shoot?' — and — 'PONTO, our pheasants want thinning,' — and My Lady would insist upon her dear MRS. PONTO coming over to Carabas to sleep, and put me I don't know to what expense for turbans and velvet gowns for my wife's toilette. Well, Sir, the election takes place, and though I was always a Liberal, personal friendship of course induces me to plump for ST. MICHAELS, who comes in at the head of the poll. Next year, MRS. P. insists upon going to town — with lodgings in Clarges Street at ten pounds a week, with a hired Brougham, and new dresses for herself and the girls, and the deuce and all to pay. Our first cards were to Carabas House; my Lady's are returned by a great big flunky; and I leave you to fancy my poor BETSY's discomfiture as the

lodging-house maid took in the cards, and LADY ST. MICHAELS drives away, though she actually saw us at the drawing-room window. Would you believe it, Sir, that though we called four times afterwards those infernal aristocrats never returned our visit; that though LADY ST. MICHAELS gave nine dinner-parties and four *déjeûners* that season, she never asked us to one; and that she cut us dead at the Opera, though BETSY was nodding to her the whole night. We wrote to her for tickets for ALMACK'S; she writes to say that all hers were promised; and said, in the presence of WIGGINS, her lady's-maid, who told it to DIGGS, my wife's woman, that she couldn't conceive how people in our station of life could so far forget themselves as to wish to appear in any such place! Go to Castle Carabas! I'd sooner die than set my foot in the house of that impertinent, insolvent, insolent jackanapes — and I hold him in scorn!" After this, PONTO gave me some private information regarding LORD CARABAS'S pecuniary affairs; how he owed money all over the County; how JUKES the carpenter was utterly ruined and couldn't get a shilling of his bill; how BIGGS the butcher hanged himself for the same reason; how the six big footmen never received a guinea of wages, and SNAFFLE, the state coachman, actually took off his blown-glass whig of ceremony and flung it at LADY CARABAS'S feet on the Terrace before the Castle; all which stories, as they are private, I do not think proper to divulge. But these details did not stifle my desire to see the famous mansion of Castle Carabas, nay, possibly excited my interest to know more about that lordly house and its owners.

At the entrance of the park, there are a pair of great gaunt mildewed lodges — mouldy Doric temples with black chimney-pots in the finest classic taste, and the gates of course, are surmounted by the *Chats bottés*, the well-known supporters of the CARABAS family. "Give the lodge-keeper a shilling," says PONTO, (who drove me near to it in his four-wheeled

cruelty-chaise), "I warrant it's the first piece of ready money he has received for some time." I don't know whether there was any foundation for this sneer, but the gratuity was received with a curtsy, and the gate opened for me to enter. "Poor old porteress!" says I, inwardly, "You little know that it is the HISTORIAN OF SNOBS whom you let in?" The gates were passed. A damp green stretch of park spread right and left immeasurably, confined by a chilly grey wall, and a damp long straight road between two huge rows of moist, dismal lime-trees, leads up to the Castle. In the midst of the park is a great black tank or lake, bristling over with rushes, and here and there covered over with patches of pea-soup. A shabby temple rises on an island in this delectable lake, which is approached by a rotten barge that lies at roost in a dilapidated boat-house. Clumps of elms and oaks dot over the huge green flat. Every one of them would have been down long since, but that the MARQUIS is not allowed to cut the timber.

Up that long avenue the Snobographer walked in solitude. At the seventy-ninth tree on the left-hand side, the insolvent butcher hanged himself. I scarcely wondered at the dismal deed, so woful and sad were the impressions connected with the place. So for a mile-and-a-half I walked — alone and thinking of death.

I forgot to say the house is in full view all the way — except when intercepted by the trees on the miserable island in the lake — an enormous red-brick mansion, square, vast, and dingy. It is flanked by four stone towers with weathercocks. In the midst of the grand façade is a huge Ionic portico, approached by a vast, lonely, ghastly staircase. Rows of black windows framed in stone, stretch on either side, right and left — three stories and eighteen windows of a row. You may see a picture of the palace and staircase, in the Views of England and Wales, with four carved and gilt carriages waiting at the gravel walk, and several parties of ladies and gentlemen in wigs and hoops, dotting the fatiguing lines of the stairs.

But these stairs are made in great houses for people *not* to ascend. The first LADY CARABAS, (they are but eighty years in the peerage) if she got out of her gilt coach in a shower, would be wet to the skin before she got half-way to the carved Ionic portico, where four dreary statues of Peace, Plenty, Piety and Patriotism, are the only sentinels. You enter these palaces by back doors. "That was the way the CARABASES got their peerage," the misanthropic PONTO said after dinner.

Well — I rang the bell at a little low side-door; it clanged and jingled and echoed for a long long while, till at length a face, as of a housekeeper, peered through the door, and, as she saw my hand in my waistcoat pocket, opened it. Unhappy, lonely, housekeeper, I thought. Is MISS CRUSOE in her island more solitary? The door clapped to, and I was in Castle Carabas.

"The side entrance and All," says the housekeeper. "The halligator hover the mantelpiece was brought home by HADMIRAL ST. MICHAELS, when a Capting with LORD HANSON. The harms on the cheers is the harms of the CARABAS family." The hall was rather comfortable. We went clapping up a clean stone back-stair, and then into a back passage cheerfully decorated with ragged light-green kiddermminster, and issued upon

"THE GREAT ALL."

"The great all is seventy-two feet in lenth, fifty-six in breath, and thirty-eight feet 'igh. The carvings of the chim-lies, representing the buth of VENUS, and ERCULES, and EYELASH, is by VAN CHISLUM, the most famous sculpture of his hage and country. The ceiling, by CALIMANCO, represents Painting, Harchitecture and Music, (the naked female figure with the barrel horgan) introducing GEORGE, fust LORD CARABAS, to the Temple of the Muses. The winder ornaments is by VANDERPUTTY. The floor is Patagonian marble; and the chandelier in the centre was presented to LIONEL, second Marquis, by LEWY THE SIXTEENTH, whose ead was cut hoff in the French Revelation. We now henter

"THE SOUTH GALLERY,"

"One undred and forty-eight in lenth by thirty-two in breath; it is profusely hornaminted by the choicest works of Hart. SIR ANDREW KATZ, founder of the CARABAS family and banker of the PRINCE OF HORANGE. KNELLER. Her present Ladyship, by LAWRENCE. LORD ST. MICHAELS, by the same — he is represented sittin on a rock in velvit pantaloons. MOSES in the bullrushes — the bull very fine, by PAUL POTTER. The toilet of VENUS, FANTASKI. Flemish Bores drinking, VAN GINNUMS. JUPITER and EUROPIA, DE HORN. The Grandjunction Canal, Venis, by CANDLEETTY; and Italian Bandix, by SLAVATA ROSA." — And so this worthy woman went on, from one room into another, from the blue room to the green, and the green to the grand saloon, and the grand saloon to the tapestry closet, cackling her list of pictures and wonders; and furtively turning up a corner of brown holland to show the colour of the old faded, seedy, mouldy, dismal hangings.

At last we came to her Ladyship's bed-room. In the centre of this dreary apartment there is a bed about the size of one of those whizgig temples in which the Genius appears in a pantomime. The huge gilt edifice is approached by steps, and so tall, that it might be let off in floors, for sleeping-rooms for all the CARABAS family. An awful bed! A murder might be done at one end of that bed, and people sleeping at the other end be ignorant of it. Gracious powers! fancy little LORD CARABAS in a night-cap ascending those steps after putting out the candle!

The sight of that seedy and solitary splendour was too much for me. I should go mad were I that lonely house-keeper — in those enormous galleries — in that lonely library, filled up with ghastly folios that nobody dares read, with an inkstand on the centre table like the coffin of a baby, and sad portraits staring at you from the bleak walls with their solemn mouldy eyes. No wonder that CARABAS does not come down here often. It would require two thousand footmen to make the place cheerful. No wonder the coachman resigned his

wig, that the masters are insolvent, and the servants perish in this huge dreary out-at-elbow place.

A single family has no more right to build itself a temple of that sort than to erect a tower of Babel. Such a habitation is not decent for a mere mortal man. But after all I suppose poor CARABAS had no choice. Fate put him there as it sent NAPOLEON to St. Helena. Suppose it had been decreed by Nature that you and I should be Marquises? We wouldn't refuse, I suppose, but take Castle Carabas and all, with debts, duns, and mean makeshifts, and shabby pride, and swindling magnificence.

Next season, when I read of LADY CARABAS's splendid entertainments in the *Morning Post*, and see the poor old insolvent cantering through the Park — I shall have a much tenderer interest in these great people than I have had heretofore. Poor old shabby Snob! Ride on and fancy the world is still on its knees before the house of Carabas! Give yourself airs, poor old bankrupt Magnifico, who are under money-obligations to your flunkies; and must stoop so as to swindle poor tradesmen! And for us, O my brother Snobs, oughtn't we to feel happy if our walk through life is more even, and that we are out of the reach of that surprising arrogance and that astounding meanness to which this wretched old victim is obliged to mount and descend.

CHAPTER XXIX.

A visit to some Country Snobs.

NOTABLE as my reception had been (under that unfortunate mistake of MRS. PONTO that I was related to LORD SNOBBINGTON, which I was not permitted to correct), it was nothing compared to the bowing and kotooing, the raptures, and flurry which preceded and welcomed the visit of a real live lord and lord's son, a brother officer of CORNET WELLESLEY PONTO, in the 120th Hussars, who came over with the young Cornet from Guttlebury, where their distinguished regiment was quartered — this was my LORD GULES, LORD SALTIRE'S

grandson and heir: a very young short sandy-haired and tobacco-smoking nobleman, who cannot have left the nursery very long, and who, though he accepted the honest major's invitation to the Evergreens in a letter written in a school-boy hand-writing, with a number of faults of spelling, may yet be a very fine classical scholar for what I know: having had his education at Eton, where he and young PONTO were inseparable.

At any rate, if he can't write, he has mastered a number of other accomplishments wonderful for one of his age and size. He is one of the best shots and riders in England. He rode his horse Abracadabra, and won the famous Guttlebury steeple-chase. He has horses entered at half the races in the country (under other people's names; for the old lord is a strict hand, and will not hear of betting or gambling). He has lost and won such sums of money as my LORD GEORGE himself might be proud of. He knows all the stables, and all the jockeys, and has all the "information," and is a match for the best Leg at Newmarket. Nobody was ever known to be "too much" for him: at play or in the stable.

Although his grandfather makes him a moderate allowance, by the aid of post-obits and convenient friends he can live in a splendour becoming his rank. He has not distinguished himself in the knocking down of policemen much; he is not big enough for that. But, as a light-weight, his skill is of the very highest order. At billiards he is said to be first-rate. He drinks and smokes as much as any two of the biggest officers in his regiment. With such high talents, who can say how far he may not go? He may take to politics as a *delassement*, and be Prime Minister after LORD GEORGE BENTINCK.

My young friend WELLESLEY PONTO is a gaunt and bony youth, with a pale face profusely blotched. From his continually pulling something on his chin, I am led to fancy that he believes he has what is called an Imperial growing there. That is not the only tuft that is hunted in the family, by the way. He can't, of course, indulge in those expensive amuse-

ments which render his aristocratic comrade so respected: he bets pretty freely when he is in cash, and rides when somebody mounts him (for he can't afford more than his regulation chargers). At drinking he is by no means inferior; and why do you think he brought his noble friend, LORD GULES, to the Evergreens? — Why? because he intended to ask his mother to order his father to pay his debts, which she couldn't refuse before such an exalted presence. Young PONTO gave me all this information with the most engaging frankness. We are old friends. I used to tip him when he was at school.

“Gad!” says he, “our wedgment’s so *doothid* exthpenthif. Must hunt, you know. A man couldn’t live in the wedgment if he didn’t. Mess expenses enawmuth. Must dine at mess. Must drink champagne and claret. Our’s aint a port and sherry light-infantry mess. Uniform’s awful. FITZSTULTZ, our Cononel, will have ’em so. Must be a distinction, you know. At his own expense FITZSTULTZ altered the plumes in the men’s caps (you called them shaving-brushes, SNOB, my boy: most absurd and unjust that attack of yours, by the way); that altevation alone cotht him five hundred pound. The year befaw latht he horthed the wegiment at an immenthe expenthe, and we ’re called the Queen’t^h Own Pyebalds from that day. Ever theen uth on pawade? The EMPEWAR NICHOLATH burtht into tearth of envy when he thaw uth at Windthor. And you see,” continued my young friend, “I brought GULES down with me, as the Governor is very sulky about shelling out, just to talk my mother over, who can do anything with him. GULES told her that I was FITZSTULTZ’s favourite of the whole regiment; and, Gad! she thinks the Horse Guards will give me my troop for nothing! and he humbugged the Governor that I was the greatest screw in the army. Aint it a good dodge?”

With this WELLESLEY left me to go and smoke a cigar in the stables with LORD GULES, and make merry over the eattle there, under STRIPES’s superintendence. Young PONTO laughed with his friend, at the venerable four-wheeled

cruelty-chaise; but seemed amazed that the latter should ridicule still more an ancient chariot of the build of 1824, emblazoned immensely with the arms of the PONTOS and the SNAILEYS, from which latter distinguished family MRS. PONTO issued.

I found poor PON. in his study among his boots, in such a rueful attitude of despondency, that I could not but remark it. "Look at that!" says the poor fellow, handing me over a document. "It's the second change in uniform since he's been in the army, and yet there's no extravagance about the lad. LORD GULES tells me he is the most careful youngster in the regiment, God bless him! But look at that! by Heaven, SNOB, look at that, and say how CAN a man of nine hundred keep out of the Bench?" He gave a sob as he handed me the paper across the table; and his old face, and his old corduroys, and his shrunk shooting-jacket, and his lean shanks, looked, as he spoke, more miserably haggard, bankrupt, and threadbare.

*Lieut. Wellesley Ponto, 120th Queen's Own Pyebald Hussars,
To Knopf and Stecknadel,
Conduit Street, London.*

	£	s.	d.
Dress Jacket, richly laced with gold	35	0	0
Ditto Pelisse ditto, and trimmed with sable	60	0	0
Undress Jacket, trimmed with gold	15	15	0
Ditto Pelisse	30	0	0
Dress Pantaloons	12	0	0
Ditto Overalls, gold lace on sides	6	6	0
Undress ditto ditto	5	5	0
Blue Braided Frock	14	14	0
Forage Cap	3	3	0
Dress Cap, gold lines, plume and chain	25	0	0
Gold Barrelled Sash	11	18	0
Sword	11	11	0
Ditto Belt and Sabretache	16	16	0
Pouch and Belt	15	15	0
Sword Knot	1	4	0
Cloak	13	13	0
Valise	3	13	6
Regulation Saddle	7	17	6
Ditto Bridle, complete	10	10	0
A Dress Housing, complete	30	0	0
A pair Pistols	10	10	0
A Black Sheepskin, edged	6	18	0
	347	9	0

That evening MRS. PONTO and her family made their darling WELLESLEY give a full, true, and particular account of everything that had taken place at LORD FITZSTULTZ'S; how many servants waited at dinner; and how the ladies SCHNEIDER dressed; and what his Royal Highness said when he came down to shoot; and who was there? "What a blessing that boy is to me!" said she, as my pimple-faced young friend moved off to resume smoking operations with GULES in the now vacant kitchen; — and poor PONTO'S dreary and desperate look, shall I ever forget that?

O you parents and guardians! O you men and women of sense in England! O you legislators about to assemble in Parliament! read over that tailor's bill above printed — read over that absurd catalogue of insane gimcracks and madman's tomfoolery — and say how are you ever to get rid of Snobbishness when society does so much for its education?

Three hundred and forty pounds for a young chap's saddle and breeches! Before GEORGE, I would rather be a Hottentot or a Highlander. We laugh at poor Jocko, the monkey, dancing in uniform; or at poor JEAMES, the flunkey, with his quivering calves and plush tights; or at the nigger MARQUIS OF MARMALADE, dressed out with sabre and epaulets, and giving himself the airs of a field-marshal. Lo! is not one of the Queen's Pyebalds, in full fig, as great and foolish a monster?

CHAPTER XXX.

On some Country Snobs.

At last came that fortunate day at the Evergreens, when I was to be made acquainted with some of the "county families" with whom only people of PONTO'S rank condescended to associate. And now, although poor PONTO had just been so cruelly made to bleed on occasion of his son's new uniform, and though he was in the direst and most cut-throat spirits with an overdrawn account at the banker's, and

other pressing evils of poverty; although a tenpenny bottle of Marsala and an awful parsimony presided generally at his table, yet the poor fellow was obliged to assume the most frank and jovial air of cordiality; and all the covers being removed from the hangings, and new dresses being procured for the young ladies, and the family plate being unlocked and displayed, the house and all within assumed a benevolent and festive appearance. The kitchen fires began to blaze, the good wine ascended from the cellar, a professed cook actually came over from Guttlebury to compile culinary abominations. STRIPES was in a new coat, and so was PONTO, for a wonder, and TUMMUS's button-suit was worn *en permanence*.*

And all this to show off the little lord, thinks I. All this in honour of a stupid little cigarrified Cornet of dragoons, who can barely write his name, — while an eminent and profound moralist like — somebody — is fobbed off with cold mutton and relays of pig. Well, well: a martyrdom of cold mutton is just bearable. I pardon MRS. PONTO, from my heart I do, especially as I wouldn't turn out of the best bedroom, in spite of all her hints; but held my ground in the chintz tester, vowing that LORD GULES, as a young man, was quite small and hardy enough to make himself comfortable elsewhere.

The great PONTO party was a very august one. The HAWBUCKS came in their family coach, with the blood-red hand emblazoned all over it; and their man in yellow livery waited in country fashion at table, only to be exceeded in splendour by the HIPSLEYS, the opposition baronet, in light blue. The old LADIES FITZAGUE drove over in their little old chariot with the fat black horses, the fat coachman, the fat footman, — (why are dowagers' horses and footmen always fat?) And soon after these personages had arrived, with their auburn fronts and red beaks and turbans, came the HONOURABLE AND REVEREND LIONEL PETTIPOIS, who with

* I caught him in this attitude and costume trying the flavour of the sauce of a tipsy cake, which was made by MRS. PONTO's own hands for her guests' delectation.

GENERAL and MRS. SAGO, formed the rest of the party. "LORD and LADY FREDERICK HOWLET were asked, but they have friends at Ivybush," Mrs. PONTO told me; and that very morning, the CASTLEHAGGARDS sent an excuse, as her ladyship had a return of the quinsy. Between ourselves, LADY CASTLEHAGGARD'S quinsy always comes on when there is dinner at the Evergreens.

If the keeping of polite company could make a woman happy, surely my kind hostess MRS. PONTO was on that day a happy woman. Every person present (except the unlucky impostor who pretended to a connexion with the SNOBBINGTON Family, and GENERAL SAGO, who had brought home I don't know how many lacs of rupees from India,) was related to the Peerage or the Baronetage. MRS. P. had her heart's desire. If she had been an Earl's daughter herself, could she have expected better company? — and her family were in the oil-trade at Bristol, as all her friends very well know.

What I complained of in my heart was not the dining — which, for this once, was plentiful and comfortable enough — but the prodigious dulness of the talking part of the entertainment. O, my beloved brother Snobs of the City, if we love each other no better than our country brethren, at least we amuse each other more; if we bore ourselves, we are not called upon to go ten miles to do it!

For instance, the HIPSLEYS came ten miles from the south, and the HAWBUCKS ten miles from the north, of the Evergreens; and were magnates in two different divisions of the County of Mangelwurzelshire. HIPSLEY, who is an old baronet, with a bothered estate, did not care to show his contempt for HAWBUCK, who is a new creation, and rich. HAWBUCK, on his part, gives himself patronising airs to GENERAL SAGO, who looks upon the PONTOS as little better than paupers. "Old LADY BLANCHE," says PONTO, "I hope will leave something to her god-daughter — my second girl — we've all of us half-poisoned ourselves with taking her physic."

LADY BLANCHE and LADY ROSE FITZAGUE have, the first, a medical, and the second a literary turn. I am inclined to believe the former had a wet *compresse* around her body, on the occasion when I had the happiness of meeting her. She doctors everybody in the neighbourhood, of which she is the ornament; and has tried everything on her own person. She went into Court, and testified publicly her faith in ST. JOHN LONG: she swore by DOCTOR BUCHAN, she took quantities of GAMBOUGE'S Universal Medicine, and whole boxfulls of PARR'S Life Pills. She has cured a multiplicity of headaches by SQUINSTONE'S Eyesnuff; she wears a picture of HAHNEMANN in her bracelet and a lock of PRIESSNITZ'S hair in a brooch. She talked about her own complaints and those of her *confidante* for the time being, to every lady in the room successively, from our hostess down to MISS WIRT, taking them into corners, and whispering about bronchitis, hepatitis St. Vitus, neuralgia, cephalalgia, and so forth. I observed poor fat LADY HAWBUCK in a dreadful alarm after some communication regarding the state of her daughter MISS LUCY HAWBUCK'S health, and MRS. SAGO turn quite yellow, and put down her third glass of Madeira, at a warning glance from LADY BLANCHE.

LADY ROSE talked literature, and about the book-club at Guttlebury, and is very strong in voyages and travels. She has a prodigious interest in Borneo, and displayed a knowledge of the history of the Punjaub and Kaffirland that does credit to her memory. Old GENERAL SAGO, who sat perfectly silent and plethoric, roused up as from a lethargy when the former country was mentioned, and gave the company his story about a hog-hunt at Ramjugger. I observed her ladyship treated with something like contempt her neighbour the REVEREND LIONEL PETTIPOIS, a young divine whom you may track through the country by little "awakening" books at half-a-crown a hundred, which dribble out of his pockets wherever he goes. I saw him give MISS WIRT a sheaf of "The Little Washerwoman on Putney Common," and to MISS HAWBUCK a couple of dozen of "Meat in the Tray; or, the

Young Butcher-boy Rescued;" and on paying a visit to Guttlebury gaol, I saw two notorious fellows waiting their trial there (and temporarily occupied with a game of cribbage) to whom his Reverence offered a tract as he was walking over Crackshins Common, and who robbed him of his purse, umbrella, and cambric handkerchief, leaving him the tracts to distribute elsewhere.

CHAPTER XXXI.

A visit to some Country Snobs.

"WHY, dear MR. SNOB," said a young lady of rank and fashion (to whom I present my best compliments), "if you found everything so *snobbish* at the Evergreens, if the pig bored you and the mutton was not to your liking, and MRS. PONTO was a humbug, and MISS WIRT a nuisance, with her abominable piano practice, — why did you stay so long?"

Ah Miss, what a question! Have you never heard of gallant British soldiers storming batteries, of doctors passing nights in plague wards of lazarettos, and other instances of martyrdom? What do you suppose induced gentlemen to walk two miles up to the batteries of Sobraon, with a hundred and fifty thundering guns bowling them down by hundreds? — not pleasure, surely. What causes your respected father to quit his comfortable home for his chambers, after dinner, and pore over the most dreary law papers until long past midnight? Duty, Mademoiselle; duty, which must be done alike by military, or legal, or literary gents. There's a power of martyrdom in our profession.

You won't believe it? Your rosy lips assume a smile of incredulity — a most naughty and odious expression in a young lady's face. Well then, the fact is, that my chambers, No. 24, Pump Court, Temple, were being painted by the Honourable Society, and MRS. SLAMKIN, my laundress, having occasion to go into Durham to see her daughter, who is married, and has presented her with the sweetest little grandson — a few weeks could not be better spent than in rustivating. Bút ah,

how delightful Pump Court looked when I revisited its well-known chimney-pots! *Cari luogi*. Welcome, welcome, O fog and smut!

But if you think there is no moral in the foregoing account of the PONTINE family, you are, Madam, most painfully mistaken. In this very chapter we are going to have the moral — why, the whole of the papers are nothing *but* the moral, setting forth as they do the folly of being a Snob.

You will remark that in the Country Snobography my poor friend PONTO has been held up almost exclusively for the public gaze — and why? Because we went to no other house? Because other families did not welcome us to their mahogany? No, no. SIR JOHN HAWBUCK of the Haws, SIR JOHN HIPSLEY of Briary Hall, don't shut the gates of hospitality; of GENERAL SAGO's Mulligatawny I could speak from experience. And the two old ladies at Guttlebury, where they nothing? Do you suppose that an agreeable young dog who shall be nameless, would not be made welcome? Don't you know that people are too glad to see *anybody* in the country?

But those dignified personages do not enter into the scheme of the present work, and are but minor characters of our Snob drama; just as, in the play, kings and emperors are not half so important as many humble persons. The *Doge of Venice*, for instance, gives way to *Othello*, who is but a nigger; and the *King of France* to *Falconbridge*, who is a gentleman of positively no birth at all. So with the exalted characters above mentioned. I perfectly well recollect that the claret at HAWBUCK's was not by any means so good as that of HIPSLEY's, while, on the contrary, some white hermitage at the Haws (by the way, the butler only gave me half a glass each time) was supernacular. And I remember the conversations. Oh, Madam, Madam, how stupid they were! The sub-soil ploughing; the pleasants and poaching; the row about the representation of the county; the EARL OF MANGELWURZELSHIRE being at variance with his relative and nominee, the HONOURABLE

MARMADUKE TOMNODDY; all these I could put down, had I a mind to violate the confidence of private life; and a great deal of conversation about the weather, the Mangelwurzelshire Hunt, new manures, and eating and drinking, of course.

But *cui bono*? In these perfectly stupid and honourable families there is not that Snobbishness which it is our purpose to expose. An ox is an ox — a great, hulking, fat-sided, bellowing, munching Beef. He ruminates according to his nature, and consumes his destined portion of turnips or oilcake, until the time comes for his disappearance from the pastures, to be succeeded by other deep-lunged and fat-ribbed animals. Perhaps we do not respect an ox. We rather acquiesce in him. The Snob, my dear Madam, is the Frog that tries to swell himself to ox size. Let us pelt the silly brute out of his folly.

Look, I pray you, at the case of my unfortunate friend PONTO, a good-natured, kindly English gentleman — not over-wise, but quite passable — fond of port-wine, of his family, of country sports and agriculture, hospitably minded, with as pretty a little patrimonial country house as heart can desire, and a thousand pounds a-year. It is not much; but *entre nous*, people can live for less, and not uncomfortably.

For instance, there is the Doctor, whom MRS. P. does not condescend to visit: that man educates a mirific family, and is loved by the poor for miles round; and gives them port-wine for physic and medicine, gratis. And how those people can get on with their pittance, as MRS. PONTO says, is a wonder to *her*.

Again, there is the Clergyman, DOCTOR CHRYSOSTOM, — MRS. P. says they quarrelled about Puseyism, but I am given to understand it was because MRS. C. had the *pas* of her at the Haws — you may see what the value of his living is any day in the *Clerical Guide*; but you don't know what he gives away.

Even PETTIPOIS allows that, in whose eyes the Doctor's surplice is a scarlet abomination: and so does PETTIPOIS do

his duty in his way, and administer not only his tracts and his talk, but his money and his means to his people. As a lord's son, by the way, MRS. PONTO is uncommonly anxious that he should marry *either* of the girls whom LORD GULES does not intend to choose.

Well, although PON's income would make up almost as much as that of these three worthies put together — O my dear Madam, see in what hopeless penury the poor fellow lives! What tenant can look to *his* forbearance? What poor man can hope for *his* charity? "Master's the best of men," honest STRIPES says, "and when we was in the ridgment, a more free-handed chap didn't live. But the way in which Missus *du* scryou, I wonder the young ladies is alive, that I *du*."

They live upon a fine governess and fine masters, and have clothes made by LADY CARABAS's own milliner; and their brother rides with earls to cover; and only the best people in the country visit at the Evergreens, and MRS. PONTO thinks herself a paragon of wives and mothers, and a wonder of the world, for doing all this misery and humbug, and snobbishness, on a thousand a-year.

What an inexpressible comfort it was, my dear Madam, when STRIPES put my portmanteau in the four-wheeled chaise, and (poor PON. being touched with sciatica) drove me over to the Carabas Arms at Guttlebury, where we took leave. There were some bagmen there, in the Commercial Room, and one talked about the house he represented; and another about his dinner, and a third about the Inns on the road, and so forth — a talk, not very wise, but honest and to the purpose — about as good as that of the country gentlemen: and Oh, how much pleasanter than listening to Miss WIRT's show-pieces on the piano, and MRS. PONTO's genteel cackle about the fashion and the county families!

CHAPTER XXXII.

Snobbium gatherum.

WHEN I see the great effect which these papers are producing in an intelligent public, I have a strong hope, that before long we shall have a regular Snob-department in the newspapers, just as we have the Police Courts and the Court News at present. When a flagrant case of bone-crushing or poor-law abuse occurs in the world, who so eloquent as the *Times* to point it out? When a gross instance of Snobbishness happens, why should not the indignant journalist call the public attention to that delinquency too?

How, for instance, could that wonderful case of the EARL OF MANGELWURZEL and his brother be examined in the snobbish point of view? Let alone the hectoring, the bullying, the vapouring, the bad grammar, the mutual recriminations, lie-givings, challenges, retractions, which abound in the fraternal dispute — put out of the question these points as concerning the individual nobleman and his relative, with whose personal affairs we have nothing to do — and consider how intimately corrupt, how habitually grovelling and mean, how entirely snobbish in a word, a whole county must be which can find no better chiefs or leaders than these two gentlemen. “We don’t want,” the great county of Mangelwurzelshire seems to say, “that a man should be able to write good grammar; or that he should keep a Christian tongue in his head; or that he should have the commonest decency of temper, or even a fair share of good sense, in order to represent us in Parliament. All we require is, that a man should be recommended to us by the EARL OF MANGELWURZELSHIRE. And all that we require of the EARL OF MANGELWURZELSHIRE is that he should have fifty thousand a year and hunt the country.” O you pride of all Snobland! O you crawling, truckling, self-confessed lackeys and parasites!

But this is growing too savage; don't let us forget our usual amenity and that tone of playfulness and sentiment with which the beloved reader and writer have pursued their mutual reflections hitherto. Well, Snobbishness pervades the little Social Farce as well as the great State Comedy; and the self-same moral is tacked to either.

There was, for instance, an account in the papers of a young lady who, misled by a fortune-teller, actually went part of the way to India (as far as Bagnigge Wells, I think) in search of a husband who was promised her there. Do you suppose this poor deluded little soul would have left her shop for a man below her in rank, or for anything but a darling of a Captain in epaulets and a red coat? It was her snobbish sentiment that misled her, and made her vanities a prey to the swindling fortune-teller.

Case 2 was that of *MADemoiselle de SAUGRENUE* "the interesting young Frenchwoman with a profusion of jetty ringlets," who lived for nothing at a boarding-house at Gosport, was then conveyed to Fareham gratis: and being there, and lying on the bed of the good old lady her entertainer, the dear girl took occasion to rip open the mattress, and steal a cash-box, with which she fled to London. How would you account for the prodigious benevolence exercised towards the interesting young French lady? Was it her jetty ringlets or her charming face — Bah! Do ladies love others for having pretty faces and black hair? — She said *she was a relation of LORD DE SAUGRENUE*: talked of her ladyship, her aunt, and of herself as a *DE SAUGRENUE*. The honest boarding-house people were at her feet at once, Good honest simple lord-loving children of Snobland.

Finally, there was the case of "the *RIGHT HONOURABLE MR. VERNON*," at York. The Right Honourable was the son of a nobleman, and practised on an old lady. He procured from her dinners, money, wearing apparel, spoons, implicit credence, and an entire refit of linen. Then he cast his nets over a family of father, mother, and daughters, one of whom he proposed to marry. The father lent him money, the mo-

ther made jams and pickles for him, the daughters vied with each other in cooking dinners for the Right Honourable — and what was the end? One day the traitor fled, with a teapot and a basket-full of cold victuals. It was the “Right Honourable” which baited the hook which gorged all these greedy, simple, Snobs. Would they have been taken in by a commoner? What old lady is there, my dear Sir, who would take in you and me, were we ever so ill to do, and comfort us, and clothe us, and give us her money and her silver forks? Alas and alas! what mortal man that speaks the truth can hope for such a landlady? And yet, all these instances of fond and credulous Snobbishness have occurred in the same week’s paper, with who knows how many score more?

Just as we had concluded the above remarks comes a pretty little note sealed with a pretty little butterfly — bearing a northern post mark — and to the following effect: —

“19th November.

“*Mr. Punch,*

“Taking great interest in your Snob papers, we are very anxious to know under what class of that respectable fraternity you would designate us.

“We are three sisters, from seventeen to twenty-two. Our father is *honestly and truly* of a very good family (you will say it is Snobbish to mention that, but I wish to state the plain fact); our maternal grandfather was an Earl.*

“We *can* afford to take in a stamped edition of *you*, and all DICKENS’ works as fast as they come out, but we do *not* keep such a thing as a *Peerage* or even a *Baronetage* in the house.**

“We live with every comfort, excellent cellar, &c., &c., but as we cannot well afford a butlar we have a neat table-maid (though our father was a military man, has travelled

* The introduction of Grandpapa is, I fear, Snobbish.

** Bravo! *Punch’s Pocket Book* is the thing, and these dear young ladies shall have a presentation copy.

much, been in the best society, &c.) We *have* a coachman and helper, but we don't put the latter into buttons, nor make them wait at table, like STRIPES and TUMMUS.*

"We are just the same to persons with a handle to their name as to those without it. We wear a moderate modicum of crinoline,** and are never *limp**** in the morning. We have good and abundant dinners on *china* (though we have plate†), and just as good when alone as with company.

"Now, my dear *Mr. Punch*, will you *please* give us a short answer in your next number, and I will be *so* much obliged to you. Nobody knows we are writing to you, not even our father; nor will we ever tease†† you again if you will only give us an answer — just for fun, now do!

"If you get as far as this, which is doubtful, you will probably fling it into the fire. If you do, I cannot help it; but I am of a sanguine disposition, and entertain a lingering hope. At all events, I shall be impatient for next Sunday, for you reach us on that day, and I am ashamed to confess, we *cannot* resist opening you in the carriage driving home from church.†††

"I remain, &c., &c., for myself and sisters.

"Excuse this scrawl, but I always write *headlong*." §

"P.S. You were rather stupid last week, don't you think? §§ We keep no gamekeeper, and yet have always abundant game for friends to shoot, in spite of the poachers. We never write on perfumed paper — in short, I can't help thinking that if you knew us you would not think us Snobs."

* That is, as you like. I don't object to buttons in moderation.

** Quite right.

*** Bless you!

† SNOBBISH; and I doubt whether you ought to dine as well when alone as with company. You will be getting too good dinners.

†† We like to be teased; but tell Papa.

††† O, garters and stars! what will CAPTAIN GORDON and Exeter Hall say to this?

§ Dear little enthusiast!

§§ You were never more mistaken, Miss, in your life.

To this I reply in the following manner: — “My dear young ladies, I know your post town: and shall be at church there the Sunday *after* next; when, will you please to wear a tulip or some little trifle in your bonnets, so that I may know you? You will recognise me and my dress — a quiet-looking young fellow, in a white top coat, a crimson satin neckcloth, light blue trowsers, with glossy tipped boots, and an emerald breast pin. I shall have a black crape round my white hat; and my usual bamboo cane with the richly-gilt knob. I am sorry there will be no time to get up mustachios between now and next week.

“From seventeen to two-and-twenty! Ye gods! what ages! Dear young creatures, I can see you all three. Seventeen suits me, as nearest my own time of life; but mind, I don’t say two-and-twenty is too old. No, no. And that pretty, roguish, demure, middle one. Peace, peace, thou silly little fluttering heart!

“*You* Snobs, dear young ladies! I will pull any man’s nose who says so. There is no harm in being of a good family. You can’t help it, poor dears. What’s in a name? What is in a handle to it? I confess openly that I should not object to being a Duke myself; and between ourselves you might see a worse leg for a garter.

“*You* Snobs, dear little good-natured things, no! — that is, I hope not — I think not — I won’t be too confident — none of us should be — that we are not Snobs. That very confidence savours of arrogance, and to be arrogant is to be a Snob. In all the social gradations from sneak to tyrant, nature has placed a most wondrous and various progeny of Snobs. But are there no kindly natures, no tender hearts, no souls humble, simple, and truth-loving? Ponder well on this question, sweet young ladies. And if you can answer it, as no doubt you can — lucky are you — and lucky the respected Herr Papa, and lucky the three handsome young gentlemen who are about to become each others’ brothers-in-law.”

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Snobs and Marriage.

EVERYBODY of the middle rank who walks through this life with a sympathy for his companions on the same journey—at any rate, every man who has been jostling in the world for some three or four lustres—must make no end of melancholy reflections upon the fate of those victims whom Society, that is, Snobbishness, is immolating every day. With love and simplicity and natural kindness Snobbishness is perpetually at war. People dare not be happy for fear of Snobs. People dare not love for fear of Snobs. People pine away lonely under the tyranny of Snobs. Honest kindly hearts dry up and die. Gallant generous lads, blooming with hearty youth, swell into bloated old-bachelorhood, and burst and tumble over. Tender girls wither into shrunken decay, and perish solitary, from whom Snobbishness has cut off the common claim to happiness and affection with which Nature endowed us all. My heart grows sad as I see the blundering tyrant's handywork. As I behold it I swell with cheap rage, and glow with fury against the Snob. Come down, I say, thou skulking dullness. Come down, thou stupid bully, and give up thy brutal ghost! And I arm myself with the sword and spear, and taking leave of my family, go forth to do battle with that hideous ogre and giant, that brutal despot in Snob Castle, who holds so many gentle hearts in torture and thrall.

When *Punch* is king, I declare there shall be no such thing as old maids and old bachelors. The REVEREND MR. MALTHUS shall be burned annually, instead of GUY FAWKES. Those who don't marry shall go into the workhouse. It shall be a sin for the poorest not to have a pretty girl to love him.

The above reflections came to mind after taking a walk with an old comrade, JACK SPIGGOT by name, who is just passing into the state of old bachelorhood, after the manly and blooming youth in which I remember him. JACK was one

of the handsomest fellows in England when we entered together in the Highland Buffs; but I quitted the Cuttykilts early, and lost sight of him for many years.

Ah! how changed he is from those days! He wears a waistband now, and has begun to dye his whiskers. His cheeks, which were red, are now mottled; his eyes, once so bright and stedfast, are the colour of peeled plovers' eggs.

"Are you married, JACK?" says I, remembering how consumedly in love he was with his cousin LETTY LOVELACE, when the Cuttykilts were quartered at Strathbungo some twenty years ago.

"Married? no," says he. "Not money enough. Hard enough to keep myself, much more a family, on five hundred a-year. Come to DICKINSON'S; there 's some of the best Madeira in London there, my boy." So we went and talked over old times. The bill for dinner and wine consumed was prodigious, and the quantity of brandy-and-water that JACK took showed what a regular boozier he was. "A guinea or two guineas. What the devil do I care what I spend for my dinner?" says he.

"And LETTY LOVELACE," says I.

JACK'S countenance fell. However, he burst into a loud laugh presently. "LETTY LOVELACE!" says he. "She's LETTY LOVELACE still; but Gad, such a wizened old woman! She 's as thin as a thread-paper; (you remember what a figure she had); her nose has got red, and her teeth blue. She 's always ill; always quarrelling with the rest of the family; always psalm-singing, and always taking pills. Gad, I had a rare escape *there*. Push round the grog, old boy."

Straightway memory went back to the days when LETTY was the loveliest of blooming young creatures: when to hear her sing was to make the heart jump into your throat; when to see her dance, was better than MONTESSU or NOBLET (they were the Ballet Queens of those days); when JACK used to wear a locket of her hair, with a little gold chain round his neck, and, exhilarated with toddy, after a sederunt of the Cuttykilt mess, used to pull out this token, and kiss it, and

howl about it, to the great amusement of the bottle-nosed old Major and the rest of the table.

"My father and her's couldn't put their horses together," JACK said. "The General wouldn't come down with more than six thousand. My Governor said it shouldn't be done under eight. LOVELACE told him to go and be hanged, and so we parted company. They said she was in a decline. Gammon! She's forty, and as tough and as sour as this bit of lemon peel. Don't put much into your punch, SNOB, my boy. No man *can* stand punch after wine."

"And what are your pursuits, JACK?" says I.

"Sold out when the Governor died. Mother lives at Bath. Go down there once a year for a week. Dreadful slow. Shilling whist. Four sisters — all unmarried except the youngest — awful work. Scotland in August. Italy in the winter: cursed rheumatism. Come to London in March, and toddle about at the Club, old boy; and we won't go home till maw-aw-rning till daylight does appear."

"And here's the wreck of two lives!" mused the present Snobographer, after taking leave of JACK SPIGGOT. "Pretty merry LETTY LOVELACE's rudder lost and she cast away, and handsome JACK SPIGGOT stranded on the shore like a drunken Trinculo."

What was it that insulted Nature (to use no higher name), and perverted her kindly intentions towards them? What cursed frost was it that nipped the love that both were bearing, and condemned the girl to sour sterility, and the lad to selfish old-bachelorhood? It was the infernal Snob tyrant who governs us all, who says, "Thou shalt not love without a lady's-maid; thou shalt not marry without a carriage and horses; thou shalt have no wife in thy heart, and no children on thy knee, without a page in buttons and a French *bonne*; thou shalt go to the devil unless thou hast a Brougham; marry poor, and society shall forsake thee; thy kinsmen shall avoid thee as a criminal; thy aunts and uncles shall turn up their eyes and bemoan the sad sad manner in which TOM or HARRY has thrown himself away." You, young woman, may sell

yourself without shame, and marry old CRÆSUS; you, young man, may lie away your heart and your life for a jointure. But if you are poor, wo be to you! Society, the brutal Snob autocrat, consigns you to solitary perdition. Wither, poor girl, in your garret; rot, poor bachelor, in your Club.

When I see those graceless recluses — those unnatural monks and nuns of the order of ST. BEELZEBUB,* my hatred for Snobs and their worship, and their idols, passes all continence. Let us hew down that man-eating JUGGERNAUT, I say, that hideous Dagon; and I glow with the heroic courage of TOM THUMB, and join battle with the giant Snob.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Snobs and Marriage.

IN that noble romance called *Ten Thousand a Year*, I remember a profoundly pathetic description of the Christian manner in which the hero, MR. AUBREY, bore his misfortunes. After making a display of the most florid and grandiloquent resignation, and quitting his country mansion, the writer supposes AUBREY to come to town in a post-chaise and pair sitting bodkin probably between his wife and sister. It is about seven o'clock, carriages are rattling about, knockers are thundering, and tears bedim the fine eyes of KATE and MRS. AUBREY as they think that in happier times at this hour — their AUBREY used formerly to go out to dinner to the houses of the aristocracy his friends. This is the gist of the passage — the elegant words I forget. But the noble, noble sentiment I shall always cherish and remember. What can be more sublime than the notion of a great man's relatives in tears about — his dinner?

* This of course is understood to apply only to those unmarried persons whom a mean and Snobbish fear about money has kept from fulfilling their natural destiny. Many persons there are devoted to celibacy because they cannot help it. Of these a man would be a brute who spoke roughly. Indeed, after Miss O'TOOLE's conduct to the writer, he would be the last to condemn. But never mind, these are personal matters.

With a few touches, what author ever more happily described A SNOB?

We were reading the passage lately at the house of my friend, RAYMOND GRAY, ESQUIRE, Barrister-at-Law, an ingenuous youth without the least practice, but who has luckily a great share of good spirits, which enables him to bide his time, and bear laughingly his humble position in the world. Meanwhile, until it is altered, the stern laws of necessity and the expenses of the Northern Circuit oblige MR. GRAY to live in a very tiny mansion in a very queer small square in the airy neighbourhood of Gray's Inn.

What is the more remarkable, is, that GRAY has a wife there. MRS. GRAY was a MISS HARLEY BAKER: and I suppose I need not say *that* is a respectable family. Allied to the CAVENDISHES, the OXFORDS, the MARRYBONES, they still, though rather *déchu*s from their original splendour, hold their heads as high as any. MRS. HARLEY BAKER, I know, never goes to church without JOHN behind to carry her prayer-book; nor will MISS WELBECK, her sister, walk twenty yards a shopping without the protection of FIGBY, her sugar-loaf page; though the old lady is as ugly as any woman in the parish, and as tall and whiskery as a Grenadier. The astonishment is, how EMILY HARLEY BAKER could have stooped to marry RAYMOND GRAY. She, who was the prettiest and proudest of the family; she, who refused SIR COCKLE BYLES, of the Bengal Service; she, who turned up her little nose at ESSEX TEMPLE, Q.C., and connected with the noble house of ALBYN; she, who had but 4000 *pour tout potage*, to marry a man who had scarcely as much more. A scream of wrath and indignation was uttered by the whole family when they heard of this *mésalliance*. MRS. HARLEY BAKER never speaks of her daughter now but with tears in her eyes, and as a ruined creature. MISS WELBECK says, "I consider that man a villain;" — and has denounced poor good-natured MRS. PERKINS as a swindler, at whose ball the young people met for the first time.

MR. and MRS. GRAY, meanwhile, live in Gray's Inn Lane, afore-said, with a maid-servant and a nurse, whose hands are

very full, and in a most provoking and unnatural state of happiness. They have never once thought of crying about their dinner, like the wretchedly puling and Snobbish womankind of my favourite Snob AUBREY, of *Ten Thousand a Year*; but on the contrary, accept such humble victuals as Fate awards them with a most perfect and thankful good grace — nay, actually have a portion for a hungry friend at times — as the present writer can gratefully testify.

I was mentioning these dinners, and some admirable lemon puddings which MRS. GRAY makes, to our mutual friend the great MR. GOLDMORE, the East India Director, when that gentleman's face assumed an expression of almost apoplectic terror, and he gasped out, "What! Do they give dinners?" He seemed to think it a crime and a wonder that such people should dine at all, and that it was their custom to huddle round their kitchen fire over a bone and a crust. Whenever he meets them in society, it is a matter of wonder to him (and he always expresses his surprise very loud) how the lady can appear decently dressed, and the man have an unpatched coat to his back. I have heard him enlarge upon this poverty before the whole room at the Conflagrative Club, to which he and I and GRAY have the honour to belong.

We meet at the Club on most days. At half-past four, GOLDMORE arrives in St. James's Street, from the City, and you may see him reading the evening papers in the bow window of the Club which enfilades Pall Mall — a large plethoric man, with a bunch of seals in a large bow-windowed light waistcoat. He has large coat-tails, stuffed with agents' letters and papers about companies of which he is a Director. His seals jingle as he walks. I wish I had such a man for an uncle, and that he himself were childless. I would love and cherish him, and be kind to him.

At six o'clock in the full season, when all the world is in St. James's Street, and the carriages are cutting in and out among the cabs on the stand, and the tufted dandies are showing their listless faces out of WHITE'S; and you see respectable

grey-headed gentlemen waggling their heads to each other through the plate-glass windows of ARTHUR'S: and the red-coats wish to be Briarean, so as to hold all the gentlemen's horses; and that wonderful red-coated royal porter is sunning himself before Marlborough House; — at the noon of London time, you see a light-yellow carriage with black horses, and a coachman in a tight floss-silk wig, and two footmen in powder and white and yellow liveries, and a large woman inside in shot silk, a poodle, and a pink parasol, which drives up to the gate of the Conflagrative, and the page goes and says to MR. GOLDMORE (who is perfectly aware of the fact, as he is looking out of the windows with about forty other Conflagrative bucks) "Your carriage, Sir." G. wags his head. "Remember, eight o'clock precisely," says he to MULLIGATAWNEY, the other East India Director, and ascending the carriage plumps down by the side of MRS. GOLDMORE for a drive in the Park, and then home to Portland Place. As the carriage whirls off, all the young bucks in the Club feel a secret elation. It is a part of their establishment as it were. That carriage belongs to their Club, and their Club belongs to them. They follow the equipage with interest; they eye it knowingly as they see it in the Park. But halt! we are not come to the CLUB SNOBS yet. O my brave Snobs, what a flurry there will be among you when those papers appear!

Well, you may judge, from the above description, what sort of a man GOLDMORE is. A dull and pompous Leadenhall Street CRÆSUS, good-natured withal, and affable — cruelly affable. "MR. GOLDMORE can never forget," his lady used to say, "that it was MRS. GRAY'S grandfather who sent him to India; and though that young woman has made the most imprudent marriage in the world, and has left her station in society, her husband seems an ingenious and laborious young man, and we shall do everything in our power to be of use to him." So they used to ask the GRAYS to dinner twice or thrice in a season, when, by way of increasing the kindness, BUFF, the butler, is ordered to hire a fly to convey them to and from Portland Place.

Of course I am much too good-natured a friend of both parties not to tell GRAY of GOLDMORE's opinion regarding him, and the Nabob's astonishment at the idea of the briefless barrister having any dinner at all. Indeed, GOLDMORE's saying became a joke against GRAY amongst us wags at the Club, and we used to ask him when he tasted meat last? whether we should bring him home something from dinner? and cut a thousand other mad pranks with him in our facetious way.

One day, then, coming home from the Club, MR. GRAY conveyed to his wife the astounding information that he had asked GOLDMORE to dinner.

"My love," says MRS. GRAY, in a tremor, "how could you be so cruel? Why, the dining-room won't hold MRS. GOLDMORE."

"Make your mind easy, MRS. GRAY; her ladyship is in Paris. It is only CRÆSUS that's coming, and we are going to the play afterwards — to Sadler's Wells. GOLDMORE said at the Club that he thought SHAKSPEARE was a great dramatic poet, and ought to be patronised; whereupon, fired with enthusiasm, I invited him to our banquet."

"Goodness gracious! what *can* we give him for dinner? He has two French cooks; you know MRS. GOLDMORE is always telling us about them; and he dines with Aldermen every day."

"A plain leg of mutton, my LUCY,
I prythee get ready at three;
Have it tender, and smoking, and juicy,
And what better meat can there be?"

says GRAY, quoting my favourite poet.

"But the cook is ill; and you know that horrible PATTYPAN, the pastrycook's." * * * * *

"Silence, Frau!" says GRAY, in a deep-tragedy voice. "I will have the ordering of this repast. Do all things as I bid thee. Invite our friend SNOB here to partake of the feast. Be mine the task of procuring it."

"Don't be expensive, RAYMOND," says his wife.

"Peace, thou timid partner of the briefless one. GOLD-MORE's dinner shall be suited to our narrow means. Only do thou do in all things my commands." And seeing by the peculiar expression of the rogue's countenance, that some mad waggery was in preparation, I awaited the morrow with anxiety.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Snobs and Marriage.

PUNCTUAL to the hour — (By the way, I cannot omit here to mark down my hatred, scorn, and indignation, towards those miserable Snobs who come to dinner at nine, when they are asked at eight, in order to make a sensation in the company. May the loathing of honest folks, the back-biting of others, the curses of cooks, pursue these wretches, and avenge the society on which they trample!) — Punctual, I say, to the hour of five, which MR. and MRS. RAYMOND GRAY had appointed, a youth of an elegant appearance, in a neat evening dress, whose trim whiskers indicated neatness, whose light step denoted activity, (for in sooth he was hungry, and always is at the dinner hour, whatsoever that hour may be), and whose rich golden hair, curling down his shoulders, was set off by a perfectly new four-and-ninepenny silk hat, was seen wending his way down Bittlestone Street, Bittlestone Square, Gray's Inn. The person in question, I need not say, was MR. SNOB. *He* is never late when invited to dine. But to proceed with my narrative: —

Although MR. SNOB may have flattered himself that he made a sensation as he strutted down Bittlestone Street with his richly gilt-knobbed cane, (and indeed I vow I saw heads looking at me from MISS SQUILSBY's, the brass-plated milliner opposite RAYMOND GRAY's, who has three silver-paper bonnets, and two fly-blown French prints of fashion in the window), yet what was the emotion produced by my arrival, compared to that with which the little street thrilled, when at five minutes past five the floss-wigged coachman, the yellow

hammer-cloth and flunkies, the black horses and blazing silver harness of MR. GOLDMORE whirled down the street! It is a very little street of very little houses, most of them with very large brass plates like MISS SQUILSBY'S. Coal-merchants, architects, and surveyors, two surgeons, a solicitor, a dancing-master, and of course several house-agents, occupy the houses — little two-storied edifices with little stucco porticoes. GOLDMORE'S carriage overtopped the roofs almost; the first floors might shake hands with CRÆSUS as he lolled inside; all the windows of those first floors thronged with children and women in a twinkling. There was MRS. HAMMERLY in curl-papers; MRS. SAXBY with her front awry; MR. WRIGGLES peering through the gauze curtains, holding the while his hot glass of rum-and-water — in fine, a tremendous commotion in Bittlestone Street, as the GOLDMORE carriage drove up to MR. RAYMOND GRAY'S door.

"How kind it is of him to come with *both* the footmen!" says little MRS. GRAY, peeping at the vehicle too. The hugest domestic, descending from his perch, gave a rap at the door which almost drove in the building. All the heads were out; the sun was shining; the very organ-boy paused; the footman, the coach, and GOLDMORE'S red face and white waistcoat were blazing in splendour. The herculean plushed one went back to open the carriage-door.

RAYMOND GRAY opened his — in his shirt-sleeves.

He ran up to the carriage. "Come in, GOLDMORE," says he. "Just in time, my boy. Open the door, WHATDYECALLUM, and let your master out," — and WHATDYECALLUM obeyed mechanically, with a face of wonder and horror, only to be equalled by the look of stupified astonishment which ornamented the purple countenance of his master.

"Wawt taim will you please have the *cage*, Sir," says WHATDYECALLUM, in that peculiar, unspellable, inimitable, flunkified pronunciation which forms one of the chief charms of existence.

"Best have it to the theatre, at night," GRAY exclaims; "it is but a step from here to the Wells, and we can walk

there. I've got tickets for all. Be at Sadler's Wells at eleven."

"Yes, at eleven," exclaims GOLDMORE perturbedly, and walks with a flurried step into the house, as if he were going to execution (as indeed he was, with that wicked GRAY as a JACK KETCH over him). The carriage drove away, followed by numberless eyes from door-steps and balconies; its appearance is still a wonder in Bittlestone Street.

"Go in there, and amuse yourself with SNOB," says GRAY, opening the little drawing-room door. "I'll call out as soon as the chops are ready. FANNY's below, seeing to the pudding."

"Gracious mercy!" says GOLDMORE to me, quite confidentially, "How could he ask us? I really had no idea of this — this utter destitution."

"Dinner, dinner!" roars out GRAY, from the dining-room, whence issued a great smoking and frying; and entering that apartment we find MRS. GRAY ready to receive us, and looking perfectly like a Princess who, by some accident, had a bowl of potatoes in her hand, which vegetables she placed on the table. Her husband was meanwhile cooking mutton-chops on a gridiron over the fire.

"FANNY has made the roly-poly pudding," says he; "the chops are my part. Here's a fine one; try this, GOLDMORE." And he popped a fizzing cutlet on that gentleman's plate. What words, what notes of exclamation can describe the nabob's astonishment?

The table-cloth was a very old one, darned in a score of places. There was mustard in a tea-cup, a silver fork for GOLDMORE — all ours were iron.

"I wasn't born with a silver spoon in my mouth," says GRAY, gravely. "That fork is the only one we have. FANNY has it generally."

"RAYMOND!" cries MRS. GRAY, in an imploring face.

"She was used to better things, you know: and I hope one day to get her a dinner service. I'm told the electro-plate is uncommonly good. Where the deuce is that boy with the

beer? And now," said he, springing up, "I'll be a gentleman." And so he put on his coat, and sate down quite gravely, with four fresh mutton chops which he had by this time broiled.

"We don't have meat every day, MR. GOLDMORE," he continued, "and it's a treat to me to get a dinner like this. You little know, you gentlemen of England, who live at home at ease, what hardships briefless barristers endure."

"Gracious mercy!" says MR. GOLDMORE.

"Where's the half-and-half? FANNY, go over to the 'Keys' and get the beer. Here's sixpence." And what was our astonishment when FANNY got up as if to go!

"Gracious mercy! let *me*," cries GOLDMORE.

"Not for worlds, my dear Sir. She's used to it. They wouldn't serve you as well as they serve her. Leave her alone. Law bless you!" RAYMOND said, with astounding composure. And MRS. GRAY left the room, and actually came back with a tray on which there was a pewter flagon of beer. Little POLLY (to whom, at her christening, I had the honour of presenting a silver mug, *ex officio*) followed with a couple of tobacco pipes, and the queerest roguish look in her round little chubby face.

"Did you speak to TAPLING about the gin, FANNY, my dear?" GRAY asked, after bidding POLLY put the pipes on the chimney-piece, which that little person had some difficulty in reaching — "The last was turpentine, and even your brewing didn't make good punch of it."

"You would hardly suspect, GOLDMORE, that my wife, a HARLEY BAKER, would ever make gin punch? I think my mother-in-law would commit suicide if she saw her."

"Don't be always laughing at Mamma, RAYMOND," says MRS. GRAY.

"Well, well, she wouldn't die, and I *don't* wish she would. And you don't make gin punch, and you don't like it either — and — GOLDMORE, do you drink your beer out of the glass, or out of the pewter?"

"Gracious mercy!" ejaculates CRÆSUS once more, as little POLLY, taking the pot with both her little bunches of hands, offers it, smiling, to that astonished Director.

And so, in a word, the dinner commenced, and was presently ended in a similar fashion. GRAY pursued his unfortunate guest with the most queer and outrageous description of his struggles, misery, and poverty. He described how he cleaned the knives when they were first married; and how he used to drag the children in a little cart; how his wife could toss pancakes; and what parts of his dress she made. He told TIBBITS, his clerk, (who was in fact the functionary who had brought the beer from the public house, which MRS. FANNY had fetched from the neighbouring apartment) — to fetch "the bottle of port wine," when the dinner was over; and told GOLDMORE as wonderful a history about the way in which that bottle of wine had come into his hands, as any of his former stories had been. When the repast was all over, and it was near time to move to the play, and MRS. GRAY had retired, and we were sitting ruminating rather silently over the last glasses of the port, GRAY suddenly breaks the silence by slapping GOLDMORE on the shoulder, and saying "Now, GOLDMORE, tell me something."

"What?" asks CRÆSUS.

"Haven't you had a good dinner?"

GOLDMORE started, as if a sudden truth had just dawned upon him. He *had* had a good dinner; and didn't know it until then. The three mutton-chops consumed by him were best of the mutton kind; the potatoes were perfect of their order; as for the roly-poly, it was too good. The porter was frothing and cool, and the port wine was worthy of the gills of a bishop. I speak with ulterior views; for there is more in GRAY's cellar.

"Well," says GOLDMORE, after a pause, during which he took time to consider the momentous question GRAY put to him — "'Pon my word — now you say so — I — I have — I really have had a monsous good dinnah — monsous good, upon my ward! Here 's your health, GRAY, my boy, and your

amiable lady; and when MRS. GOLDMORE comes back, I hope we shall see you more in Portland Place." And with this the time came for the play, and we went to see MR. PHELPS at Sadler's Wells.

The best of this story (for the truth of every word of which I pledge my honour) is, that after this banquet, which GOLDMORE enjoyed so, the honest fellow felt a prodigious compassion and regard for the starving and miserable giver of the feast, and determined to help him his profession. And being a Director of the newly established Antibilious Life Assurance Company, he has had GRAY appointed Standing Counsel, with a pretty annual fee; and only yesterday, in an appeal from Bombay (BUCKMUCKJEE BOBBACHEE v. RAMCHOWDER-BAHAWDER) in the Privy Council, LORD BROUGHAM complimented MR. GRAY, who was in the case, on his curious and exact knowledge of the Sanscrit language.

Whether he knows Sanscrit or not, I can't say; but GOLDMORE got him the business; and so I cannot help having a lurking regard for that pompous old Bigwig.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Snobs and Marriage.

"WE BACHELORS in Clubs are very much obliged to you," says my old school and college companion, ESSEX TEMPLE, "for the opinion which you hold of us. You call us selfish, purple-faced, bloated, and other pretty names. You state, in the simplest possible terms, that we shall go to the deuce. You bid us rot in loneliness, and deny us all claims to honesty, conduct, decent Christian life. Who are you, MR. SNOB, to judge us so? Who are you, with your infernal benevolent smirk and grin, that laugh at all our generation?"

"I will tell you my case," says ESSEX TEMPLE; "mine and my sister POLLY's, and you may make what you like of it; and sneer at old maids, and bully old bachelors, if you will."

"I will whisper to you confidentially that my sister POLLY was engaged to SERGEANT SHIRKER — a fellow whose talents one cannot deny, and be hanged to them, but whom I have always known to be mean, selfish, and a prig. However, women don't see these faults in the men whom Love throws in their way. SHIRKER, who has about as much warmth as an eel, made up to POLLY years and years ago, and was no bad match for a briefless barrister, as he was then.

"Have you ever read LORD ELDON's life? Do you remember how the sordid old SNOB narrates his going out to purchase twopence-worth of sprats, which he and MRS. SCOTT fried between them? And how he parades his humility, and exhibits his miserable poverty — he who at that time must have been making a thousand pounds a year? Well, SHIRKER was just as proud of his prudence — just as thankful for his own meanness, and of course would not marry without a competency. Who so honourable? POLLY waited, and waited faintly, from year to year. *He* wasn't sick at heart; *his* passion never disturbed his six hours' sleep, or kept his ambition out of mind. He would rather have hugged an attorney any day than have kissed POLLY, though she was one of the prettiest creatures in the world; and while she was pining alone up-stairs, reading over the stock of half-a-dozen frigid letters that the confounded prig had condescended to write to her; *he*, be sure, was never busy with anything but his briefs in chambers — always frigid, rigid, self-satisfied, and at his duty. The marriage trailed on year after year, while MR. SERGEANT SHIRKER grew to be the famous lawyer he is.

"Meanwhile, my younger brother, PUMP TEMPLE, who was in the 120th Hussars, and had the same little patrimony which fell to the lot of myself and POLLY, must fall in love with our cousin, FANNY FIGTREE, and marry her out of hand. You should have seen the wedding! Six bridesmaids in pink, to hold the fan, bouquet, gloves, scent-bottle, and pocket-handkerchief of the bride; basketsfull of white

favours in the vestry, to be pinned on to the footmen and horses; a genteel congregation of curious acquaintance in the pews, a shabby one of poor on the steps; all the carriages of all our acquaintance, whom AUNT FIGTREE had levied for the occasion; and of course four horses for MR. PUMP's bridal vehicle.

"Then comes the breakfast or *déjeuner*, if you please, with a brass band in the street, and policemen to keep order. The happy bridegroom spends about a year's income in dresses for the bridesmaids and pretty presents; and the bride must have a *trousseau* of laces, satins, jewel-boxes and tom-foolery, to make her fit to be a lieutenant's wife. There was no hesitation about PUMP. He flung about his money as if it had been dross; and MRS. P. TEMPLE on the horse Tom Tiddler, which her husband gave her, was the most dashing of military women at Brighton or Dublin. How old MRS. FIGTREE used to bore me and POLLY with stories of PUMP's grandeur and the noble company he kept! POLLY lives with the FIGTREES, as I am not rich enough to keep a home for her.

"PUMP and I have always been rather distant. Not having the slightest notions about horseflesh, he has a natural contempt for me; and in our mother's lifetime, when the good old lady was always paying his debts and petting him, I'm not sure there was not a little jealousy. It used to be POLLY that kept the peace between us.

"She went to Dublin to visit PUMP, and brought back grand accounts of his doings — gayest man about the town — Aide-de-Camp to the Lord Lieutenant — FANNY admired everywhere — Her Excellency godmother to the second boy. The eldest with a string of aristocratic Christian names that made the grandmother wild with delight. Presently FANNY and PUMP obligingly came over to London, where the third was born.

"POLLY was godmother to this, and who so loving as she and PUMP now? 'O ESSEX!' says she to me, 'he is so good, so generous, so fond of his family; so handsome; who can

help loving him, and pardoning his little errors?' One day, while MRS. PUMP was yet in the upper regions, and DOCTOR FINGERFEE'S brougham at her door every day, having business at Guildhall, whom should I meet in Cheapside but PUMP and POLLY? The poor girl looked more happy and rosy than I have seen her these twelve years. PUMP, on the contrary, was rather blushing and embarrassed.

"I couldn't be mistaken in her face and its look of mischief and triumph. She had been committing some act of sacrifice. I went to the family stockbroker. She had sold out two thousand pounds that morning and given them to PUMP. Quarrelling was useless — PUMP had the money; he was off to Dublin by the time I reached his mother's, and POLLY radiant still. He was going to make his fortune; he was going to embark the money in the Bog of Allen — I don't know what. The fact is, he was going to pay his losses upon the last Manchester steeple-chase, and I leave you to imagine how much principal or interest poor POLLY ever saw back again.

"It was more than half her fortune, and he has had another thousand since from her. Then came efforts to stave off ruin and prevent exposure; struggles on all our parts, and sacrifices, that (here MR. ESSEX TEMPLE began to hesitate) that needn't be talked of; but they were of no more use than such sacrifices ever are. PUMP and his wife are abroad — I don't like to ask where; POLLY has the three children, and Mr. SERGEANT SHIRKER has formally written to a break off an engagement, on the conclusion of which MISS TEMPLE must herself have speculated, when she alienated the greater part of her fortune."

"And here 's your famous theory of poor marriages," ESSEX TEMPLE cries, concluding the above history. "How do you know that I don't want to marry myself? How do you dare sneer at my poor sister? What are we but martyrs of the reckless marriage system which MR. SNOB, forsooth, chooses to advocate?" And he thought he had the better of the argument, which, strange to say, is not my opinion.

But for the infernal Snob-worship, might not every one of these people be happy? If poor POLLY's happiness lay in linking her tender arms round such a heartless prig as the sneak who has deceived her, she might have been happy now — as happy as RAYMOND RAYMOND in the ballad, with the stone statue by his side. She is wretched because MR. SERGEANT SHIRKER worships money and ambition, and is a Snob and a coward.

If the unfortunate PUMP TEMPLE and his giddy hussy of a wife have ruined themselves, and dragged down others into their calamity, it is because they loved rank, and horses, and plate, and carriages, and *Court Guides*, and millinery, and would sacrifice all to attain those objects.

And who misguides them? If the world were more simple, would not those foolish people follow the fashion? Does not the world love *Court Guides*, and millinery, and plate, and carriages? Mercy on us! Read the fashionable intelligence; read the *Court Circular*; read the genteel novels; survey mankind, from Pimlico to Red Lion Square, and see how the Poor Snob is aping the Rich Snob; how the Mean Snob is grovelling at the feet of the Proud Snob; and the Great Snob is lording it over his humble brother. Does the idea of equality ever enter DIVES' head? Will it ever? Will the DUCHESS OF FITZBATTLEAXE (I like a good name) ever believe that LADY CRÆSUS, her next door neighbour in Belgrave Square, is as good a lady as her Grace? Will LADY CRÆSUS ever leave off pining for the Duchess's parties, and cease patronising MRS. BROADCLOTH, whose husband has not got his Baronetcy yet? Will MRS. BROADCLOTH ever heartily shake hands with MRS. SEEDY, and give up those odious calculations about poor dear MRS. SEEDY's income? Will MRS. SEEDY, who is starving in her great house, go and live comfortably in a little one, or in lodgings? Will her landlady, MISS LETSAM, ever stop wondering at the familiarity of tradespeople, or rebuking the insolence of SUKY, the maid, who wears flowers under her bonnet, like a lady?

But why hope, why wish for such times? Do I wish all Snobs to perish? Do I wish these Snob papers to determine? Suicidal fool, art not thou, too, a Snob and a brother?

CHAPTER XXXVII.

Club Snobs.

As I wish to be particularly agreeable to the ladies, (to whom I make my most humble obeisance, offering them every compliment connected with this festive season), we will now, if you please, commence maligning a class of Snobs, against whom, I believe, most female minds are embittered, — I mean Club Snobs. I have very seldom heard even the most gentle and placable woman speak without a little feeling of bitterness against those social institutions, those palaces swaggering in St. James's, which are open to the men; while the ladies have but their dingy three-windowed brick boxes in Belgravia or in Paddingtonia, or in the region between the road of Edgware and that of Gray's Inn.

In my grandfather's time it used to be Free-Masonry that roused their anger. It was my grand aunt (whose portrait we still have in the family) who got into the clock-case at the Royal Rosicrucian Lodge at Bungay, Suffolk, to spy the proceedings of the Society, of which her husband was a member, and being frightened by the sudden whirring and striking eleven of the clock, (just as the Deputy-Grand-Master was bringing in the mystic gridiron for the reception of a neophyte), rushed out into the midst of the lodge assembled; and was elected, by a desperate unanimity, Deputy-Grand-Mistress for life. Though that admirable and courageous female never subsequently breathed a word with regard to the secrets of the initiation, yet she inspired all our family with such a terror regarding the mysteries of Jachin and Boaz, that none of our family have ever since joined the Society or worn the dreadful Masonic insignia.

It is known that ORPHEUS was torn to pieces by some justly indignant Thracian ladies for belonging to an Harmonic

Lodge. "Let him go back to EURYDICE," they said, "whom he is pretending to regret so." But the history is given in DR. LEMPRIERE'S elegant dictionary in a manner much more forcible than any which this feeble pen can attempt. At once, then, and without verbiage, let us take up this subject matter of Clubs.

Clubs ought not in my mind to be permitted to bachelors. If my friend of the Cutty Kilts had not our club, the Union Jack, to go to (I belong to the U. J. and nine other similar institutions), who knows but he never would be a bachelor at this present moment? Instead of being made comfortable, and cockered up with every luxury, as they are at Clubs, bachelors ought to be rendered profoundly miserable, in my opinion. Every encouragement should be given to the rendering their spare time disagreeable. There can be no more odious object, according to my sentiments, than young SMITH, in the pride of health, commanding his dinner of three courses; than middle-aged JONES wallowing (as I may say) in an easy padded arm-chair, over the last delicious novel or brilliant magazine; or than old BROWN, that selfish old reprobate, for whom mere literature has no charms, stretched on the best sofa, sitting on the second edition of the *Times*, having the *Morning Chronicle* between his knees, the *Herald* pushed in between his coat and waistcoat, the *Standard* under his left arm, the *Globe* under the other pinion, and the *Daily News* in perusal. "I'll trouble you for *Punch*, MR. WIGGINS," says the unconscionable old gormandiser, interrupting our friend, who is laughing over the periodical in question.

This kind of selfishness ought not to be. No, no. Young SMITH, instead of his dinner and his wine, ought to be, where? — at the festive tea-table, to be sure, by the side of Miss HIGGS, sipping the bohea, or tasting the harmless muffin; while old MRS. HIGGS looks on, pleased at their innocent dalliance, and my friend Miss WIRT, the governess, is performing THALBERG'S last sonata in treble X, totally unheeded, at the piano.

Where should the middle-aged JONES be? At his time of life, he ought to be the father of a family. At such an hour — say, at nine o'clock at night — the nursery-bell should have just rung the children to bed. He and Mrs. J. ought to be, by rights, seated on each side of the fire by the dining-room table, a bottle of Port Wine between them, not so full as it was an hour since. Mrs. J. has had two glasses; Mrs. GRUMBLE (JONES's mother-in-law) has taken three: JONES himself has finished the rest, and doses comfortably until bed-time.

And BROWN, that old newspaper-devouring miscreant, what right has *he* at a club at a decent hour of night? He ought to be playing his rubber with Miss MAC WHIRTER, his wife, and the family apothecary. His candle ought to be brought to him at ten o'clock, and he should retire to rest just as the young people were thinking of a dance. How much finer, simpler, nobler, are the several employments I have sketched out for these gentlemen, than their present nightly orgies at the horrid club.

And, ladies, think of men who do not merely frequent the dining-room and library, but who use other apartments of those horrible dens which it is my purpose to batter down; — think of CANNON, the wretch, with his coat off, at his age and size, clattering the balls over the billiard table all night, and making bets with that odious CAPTAIN SPOT! — think of PAM in a dark room with BOB TRUMPER, JACK DEUCEACE, and CHARLEY VOLE, playing, the poor dear misguided wretch, guinea points and five pounds on the rubber! — above all, think, O think, of that den of abomination, which, I am told, has been established in *some* clubs, called *the Smoking Room*, — think of the debauchees who congregate there, the quantities of reeking whiskey-punch or more dangerous sherry-cobbler which they consume; — think of them coming home at cock-crow and letting themselves into the quiet house with the Chubb key; — think of them, the hypocrites, taking off their insidious boots before they slink up stairs, the children sleeping over-head, the

wife of their bosom alone with the waning rushlight in the two-pair front — that chamber so soon to be rendered hateful by the smell of their stale cigars! I am not an advocate of violence; I am not, by nature, of an incendiary turn of mind, but if, my dear ladies, you are for assassinating MR. CHUBB and burning down the Club Houses in St. James's, there is *one* Snob, at least, who will not think the worse of you.

The only men who, as I opine, ought to be allowed the use of Clubs, are married men without a profession. The continual presence of these in a house cannot be thought, even by the most uxorious of wives, desirable. Say the girls are beginning to practise their music, which in an honourable English family, ought to occupy every young gentlewoman three hours; it would be rather hard to call upon poor papa to sit in the drawing-room all that time, and listen to the interminable discords and shrieks which are elicited from the miserable piano during the above necessary operation. A man, with a good ear especially, would go mad, if compelled daily to submit to this horror.

Or suppose you have a fancy to go to the milliner's, or to HOWELL and JAMES's, it is manifest, my dear Madam, that your husband is much better at the Club during these operations than by your side in the carriage, or perched in wonder upon one of the stools at SHAWL and GIMCRACK's, whilst young counter-dandies are displaying their wares.

This sort of husbands should be sent out after breakfast, and if not Members of Parliament, or Directors of a Railroad or an Insurance Company, should be put into their Clubs, and told to remain there until dinner time. No sight is more agreeable to my truly well-regulated mind than to see the noble characters so worthily employed. Whenever I pass by St. James's Street, having the privilege, like the rest of the world, of looking in at the windows of BLIGHT's, or FOODLE's, or SNOOK's, or the great bay at the Contemplative Club, I behold with respectful appreciation the figures within — the honest rosy old fogies, the mouldy old dandies, the waist-belts and glossy wigs and tight cravats of those most

vacuous and respectable men. Such men are best there during the day-time surely. When you part with them, dear ladies, think of the rapture consequent on their return. You have transacted your household affairs; you have made your purchases; you have paid your visits; you have aired your poodle in the Park; your French maid has completed the toilette which renders you so ravishingly beautiful by candle-light, and you are fit to make home pleasant to him who has been absent all day.

Such men surely ought to have their Clubs, and we will not class them among Club Snobs therefore: — on whom let us reserve our attack for the next week.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Club Snobs.

SUCH a sensation has been created in the Clubs by the appearance of the last paper on Club Snobs, as can't but be complimentary to me who am one of their number.

I belong to nine clubs. The Union Jack, the Sash and Marlingspike — Military Clubs. The True Blue, the No Surrender, the Blue and Buff, the Guy Fawkes, and the Cato Street — Political Clubs. The Brummell and the Regent — Dandy Clubs. The Acropolis, the Palladium, the Areopagus, the Pnyx, the Pentelicus, the Ilyssus, and the Poluphloisboio Thalasses — Literary Clubs. I never could make out how the latter set of Clubs got their names; *I* don't know Greek for one, and I wonder how many other members of those institutions do.

Ever since the Club Snobs have been announced, I observe a sensation created on my entrance into any one of these places. Members get up and hustle together; they nod, they scowl, as they glance towards the present Snob. "Infernal impudent jackanapes! If he shows me up," says COLONEL BLUDYER, "I'll break every bone in his skin." "I told you what would come of admitting literary men into the Club," says RANVILLE RANVILLE to his colleague,

SPOONEY, of the Tape and Sealing-Wax Office. "These people are very well in their proper places, and as a public man, I make a point of shaking hands with them, and that sort of thing; but to have one's privacy obtruded upon by such people is really too much. Come along, SPOONEY," and the pair of prigs retire superciliously.

As I came into the coffee-room at the No Surrender, old JAWKINS was holding out to a knot of men, who were yawning, as usual. There he stood, waving the *Standard*, and swaggering before the fire. "What," says he, "did I tell Peel last year? If you touch the Corn Laws, you touch the Sugar Question; if you touch the Sugar, you touch the Tea. I am no monopolist. I am a liberal man, but I cannot forget that I stand on the brink of a precipice; and if we are to have Free Trade, give me reciprocity. And what was SIR ROBERT PEEL's answer to me? 'MR. JAWKINS,' he said" —

Here JAWKINS's eye suddenly turning on your humble servant, he stopped his sentence, with a guilty look — his stale, old, stupid sentence, which every one of us at the Club have heard over and over again.

JAWKINS is a most pertinacious Club Snob. Every day he is at that fire-place, holding that *Standard*, of which he reads up the leading article, and pours it out, *ore rotundo*, with the most astonishing composure, in the face of his neighbour, who has just read every word of it in the paper. JAWKINS has money, as you may see by the tie of his neck-cloth. He passes the morning swaggering about the City, in bankers' and brokers' parlours, and says: — "I spoke with PEEL yesterday, and his intentions are so and so. GRAHAM and I were talking over the matter, and I pledge you my word of honour, his opinion coincides with mine; and that Whatd'yecallum is the only measure Government will venture on trying." By evening-paper time he is at the Club: "I can tell you the opinion of the City, my lord," says he, "and the way in which JONES LOYD looks at it is briefly this; ROTHSCHILDS told me so themselves. In Mark

Lane, people's minds are *quite* made up." He is considered rather a well-informed man.

He lives in Belgravia, of course; in a drab-coloured genteel house, and has everything about him that is properly grave, dismal, and comfortable. His dinners are in the *Morning Herald*, among the parties for the week; and his wife and daughters make a very handsome appearance at the Drawing-Room, once a-year, when he comes down to the Club in his Deputy-Lieutenant's uniform.

He is fond of beginning a speech to you by saying, "When I was in the House, I &c." — in fact he sat for Skittlebury for three weeks in the first Reformed Parliament, and was unseated for bribery; since which he has three times unsuccessfully contested that honourable borough.

Another sort of Political Snob I have seen at most Clubs, and that is the man who does not care so much for home politics, but is great upon foreign affairs. I think this sort of man is scarcely found anywhere *but* in Clubs. It is for him the papers provide their foreign articles, at the expense of some ten thousand a-year each. He is the man who is really seriously uncomfortable about the designs of Russia, and the atrocious treachery of LOUIS-PHILIPPE. He it is who expects a French fleet in the Thames, and has a constant eye upon the American President, every word of whose speech (goodness help him!) he reads. He knows the names of the contending leaders in Portugal, and what they are fighting about: and it is he who says that LORD ABERDEEN ought to be impeached, and LORD PALMERSTON hanged, or *vice versa*.

LORD PALMERSTON's being sold to Russia, the exact number of roubles paid, by what house in the City, is a favourite theme with this kind of Snob. I once overheard him — it was CAPTAIN SPITFIRE, R. N., (who had been refused a ship by the Whigs, by the way) — indulging in the following conversation with MR. MINNS after dinner.

"Why wasn't the PRINCESS SCRAGAMOFFSKY at LADY PALMERSTON's party, MINNS? Because *she can't show* —

and why can't she show? Shall I tell you, MINNS, why she can't show? The PRINCESS SCRAGAMOFFSKY's back is flayed alive, MINNS — I tell you it's raw, Sir! On Tuesday last, at twelve o'clock, three drummers of the Preobajinski regiment arrived at Ashburnham House, and at half-past twelve, in the yellow drawing-room at the Russian Embassy, before the ambassadress and four ladies'-maids, the Greek Papa, and the Secretary of Embassy, MADAME DE SCRAGAMOFFSKY received thirteen dozen. She was knouted, Sir, knouted in the midst of England — in Berkeley Square, for having said that the GRAND DUCHESS OLGA's hair was red. And now, Sir, will you tell me LORD PALMERSTON ought to continue Minister?"

MINNS. "Good God!"

MINNS follows SPITFIRE about, and thinks him the greatest and wisest of human beings.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Club Snobs.

WHY does not some great author write "The Mysteries of the Club Houses; or St. James's Street unveiled." It would be a fine subject for an imaginative writer. We must all, as boys, remember when we went to the fair, and had spent all our money — the sort of awe and anxiety with which we loitered round the outside of the show, speculating upon the nature of the entertainment going on within.

Man is a Drama — of Wonder and Passion, and Mystery and Meanness, and Beauty and Truthfulness, and Etcetera. Each Bosom is a Booth in Vanity Fair. But let us stop this capital style, I should die if I kept it up for a column (a pretty thing a column all capitals would be, by the way). In a Club, though there mayn't be a soul of your acquaintance in the room, you have always the chance of watching strangers, and speculating on what is going on within those tents and curtains of their souls, their coats and waistcoats. This is a never-failing sport. Indeed I am told there are some Clubs

in the town where nobody ever speaks to anybody. They sit in the coffee-room, quite silent, and watching each other.

Yet how little you can tell from a man's outward demeanour! There's a man at our Club — large, heavy, middle-aged — gorgeously dressed — rather bald — with lacquered boots — and a boa when he goes out; quiet in demeanour, always ordering and consuming a *récherché* little dinner, whom I have mistaken for SIR JOHN POCKLINGTON any time these five years, and respected as a man with five hundred pounds *per diem*: and I find he is but a clerk in an office in the City, with not two hundred pounds income, and his name is JUBBER. SIR JOHN POCKLINGTON was, on the contrary, the dirty little snuffy man who cried out so about the bad quality of the beer, and grumbled at being overcharged threehalfpence for a herring, seated at the next table to JUBBER on the day when some one pointed the Baronet out to me.

Take a different sort of mystery. I see, for instance, old FAWNEY stealing round the rooms of the Club, with glassy, meaningless eyes, and an endless greasy simper — he fawns on everybody he meets, and shakes hands with you, and blesses you, and betrays the most tender and astonishing interest in your welfare. You know him to be a quack and a rogue, and he knows you know it. But he wriggles on his way, and leaves a track of slimy flattery after him wherever he goes. Who can penetrate that man's mystery? What earthly good can he get from you or me? You don't know what is working under that leering tranquil mask. You have only the dim instinctive repulsion that warns you, you are in the presence of a knave — beyond which fact all FAWNEY'S soul is a secret to you.

I think I like to speculate on the young men best. Their play is opener. You know the cards in their hand, as it were. Take, for example, MESSRS. SPAVIN and COCKSPUR.

A specimen or two of the above sort of young fellows may be found, I believe, at most Clubs. They know nobody. They bring a fine smell of cigars into the room with them, and

they growl together, in a corner, about sporting matters. They recollect the history of that short period in which they have been ornaments of the world by the names of winning horses. As political men talk about "the Reform year," "the year the Whigs went out," and so forth, these young sporting bucks speak of *Tarnation's* year, or *Opodeldoc's* year, or the year when *Catawampus* ran second for the Chester Cup. They play at billiards in the morning, they absorb pale ale for breakfast, and "top up" with glasses of strong waters. They read *Bell's Life* (and a very pleasant paper too, with a great deal of erudition in the answers to correspondents). They go down to TATTERSALL'S, and swagger in the Park, with their hands plunged in the pockets of their paletots.

What strikes me especially in the outward demeanour of sporting youth is their amazing gravity, their conciseness of speech, and careworn and moody air. In the smoking-room at the Regent, when JOE MILLERSON will be setting the whole room in a roar with laughter, you hear young MESSRS. SPAVIN and COCKSPUR grumbling together in a corner. "I'll take your five-and-twenty to one about Brother to Bluenose," whispers SPAVIN. "Can't do it at the price," COCKSPUR says, wagging his head ominously. The betting-book is always present in the minds of those unfortunate youngsters. I think I hate that work even more than the *Peerage*. There is some good in the latter — though, generally speaking, a vain record; though DE MUGGINS is not descended from the giant HOGYN MOGYN; though half the other genealogies are equally false and foolish; yet the mottoes are good reading — some of them; and the book itself a sort of gold-laced and liveried lackey to History, and in so far serviceable. But what good ever came out of, or went into, a betting-book? If I could be CALIPH OMAR for a week, I would pitch every one of those despicable manuscripts into the flames; from my Lord's, who is "in" with JACK SNAFFLE'S stable, and is over-reaching worse-informed rogues and swindling greenhorns; down to SAM'S, the butcher-boy's, who books eighteen-penny odds in the tap-room, and "stands to win five-and-twenty bob."

In a turf transaction, either SPAVIN or COCKSPUR would try to get the better of his father, and, to gain a point in the odds, victimise his best friends. One day we shall hear of one or other levanting; an event at which, not being sporting men, we shall not break our hearts. See — MR. SPAVIN is settling his toilette previous to departure; giving a curl in the glass to his side-wisps of hair. Look at him! It is only at the hulks, or among turf-men, that you ever see a face so mean, so knowing and so gloomy.

A much more humane being among the youthful Clubbists is the Lady-killing Snob. I saw WIGGLE just now in the dressing-room, talking to WAGGLE, his inseparable.

Waggle. "'PON MY HONOUR, WIGGLE, SHE DID."

Wiggle. "WELL, WAGGLE, AS YOU SAY SO — I OWN I THINK SHE DID LOOK AT ME RATHER KINDLY. WE 'LL SEE TO-NIGHT, AT THE FRENCH PLAY."

And having arrayed their little persons, these two harmless young bucks go up-stairs to dinner.

CHAPTER XL.

Club Snobs.

BOTH sorts of young men, mentioned in my last under the flippant names of WIGGLE and WAGGLE, may be found in tolerable plenty, I think, in Clubs. WIGGLE and WAGGLE are both idle. They come of the middle classes. One of them very likely makes believe to be a barrister, and the other has smart apartments about Piccadilly. They are a sort of second-chop dandies; they cannot imitate that superb listlessness of demeanour, and that admirable vacuous folly which distinguishes the noble and high-born chiefs of the race; but they lead lives almost as bad (were it but for the example), and are personally quite as useless. I am not going to arm a thunder-bolt, and launch it at the heads of these little Pall Mall butterflies. They don't commit much public harm, or private extravagance. They don't spend a thousand pounds for diamond ear-rings for an Opera-dancer, as LORD TARQUIN can: neither

of them ever set up a public-house or broke the bank of a gambling-club, like the young EARL OF MARTINGALE. They have good points, kind feelings, and deal honourably in money-transactions — only in their characters of men of second-rate pleasure about town, they and their like are so utterly mean, self-contented, and absurd, that they must not be omitted in a work treating on Snobs.

WIGGLE has been abroad, where he gives you to understand that his success among the German countesses and Italian princesses, whom he met at the *tables d'hôte*, was perfectly terrific. His rooms are hung round with pictures of actresses and ballet-dancers. He passes his mornings in a fine dressing-gown, burning pastilles, and reading *Don Juan* and French novels (by the way, the life of the author of *Don Juan*, as described by himself, was the model of the life of a Snob). He has twopenny-halfpenny French prints of women with languishing eyes, dressed in dominoes — guitars, gondolas, and so forth, — and tells you stories about them.

"It's a bad print," says he, "I know, but I've a reason for liking it. It reminds me of somebody — somebody I knew in other climes. You have heard of the PRINCIPESSA DI MONTE PULCIANO? I met her at Rimini. Dear, dear FRANCESCA! That fair-haired, bright-eyed thing in the Bird of Paradise and the Turkish Simar with the love-bird on her finger, I'm sure must have been taken from — from somebody perhaps whom you don't know — but she's known at Munich, WAGGLE, my boy, — everybody knows the COUNTESS OTTILIA DI EULENSCHRECKENSTEIN. Gad, Sir, what a beautiful creature she was when I danced with her on the birthday of PRINCE ATILA of Bavaria, in '44. PRINCE CARLOMAN was our *vis-à-vis*, and PRINCE PEPIN danced the same *contredanse*. She had a polyanthus in her bouquet. WAGGLE, *I have it now.*" His countenance assumes an agonised and mysterious expression, and he buries his head in the sofa cushions, as if plunging into a whirlpool of passionate recollections.

Last year he made a considerable sensation, by having on his table a morocco miniature-case locked by a gold key,

which he always wore round his neck, and on which was stamped a serpent — emblem of eternity — with the letter M in the circle. Sometimes he laid this upon his little morocco writing-table, as if it were on an altar — generally he had flowers upon it — in the middle of a conversation he would start up and kiss it. He would call out from his bed-room to his valet, “HICKS, bring me my casket!”

“I don’t know who it is,” WAGGLE would say. “Who *does* know that fellow’s intrigues! DESBOROUGH WIGGLE, Sir, is the slave of passion. I suppose you have heard the story of the Italian princess locked up in the Convent of Saint Barbara, at Rimini — he hasn’t told you; then I’m not at liberty to speak — or the countess, about whom he nearly had the duel with PRINCE WITIKIND of Bavaria? Perhaps you hav’n’t even heard about that beautiful girl at Pentonville, daughter of a most respectable dissenting clergyman. She broke her heart when she found he was engaged (to a most lovely creature of high family, who afterwards proved false to him), and she’s now in Hanwell.”

WAGGLE’S belief in his friend amounts to frantic adoration. “What a genius he is, if he would but apply himself!” he whispers to me. “He could be anything, Sir, but for his passions. His poems are the most beautiful things you ever saw. He’s written a continuation of *Don Juan*, from his own adventures. Did you ever read his lines to MARY? They’re superior to BYRON, Sir — superior to BYRON.”

I was glad to hear this from so accomplished a critic as WAGGLE; for the fact is, I had composed the verses myself for honest WIGGLE one day, whom I found at his chambers plunged in thought over a very dirty old-fashioned album, in which he had not as yet written a single word.

“I can’t,” says he. “Some days I can write whole cantos, and to-day not a line. O, SNOB! such an opportunity! Such a divine creature! She’s asked me to write verses for her album, and I can’t.”

“Is she rich?” said I. “I thought you would never marry any but an heiress.”

"O, SNOB! she's the most accomplished, highly-connected creature! — and I can't get out a line."

"How will you have it," says I: "hot with sugar?"

"Don't, don't! You trample on the most sacred feelings, SNOB. I want something wild and tender, — like BYRON. I want to tell her that amongst the festive halls, and that sort of thing, you know — I only think about her, you know — that I scorn the world, and am weary of it, you know, and — something about a gazelle, and a bulbul, you know."

"And a yataghan to finish off with," the present writer observed, and we began: —

TO MARY.

I seem, in the midst of the crowd,

The lightest of all;

My laughter rings cheery and loud,

In banquet and ball.

My lip hath its smiles and its sneers,

For all men to see;

But my soul, and my truth, and my tears,

Are for thee, are for thee!

"Do you call *that* neat, WIGGLE?" says I. "I declare it almost makes me cry, myself."

"Now suppose," says WIGGLE, "we say that all the world is at my feet — make her jealous, you know, and that sort of thing — and that — that I'm going to *travel*, you know. That perhaps may work upon her feelings."

So *We* (as this wretched prig said) began again: —

Around me they flatter and fawn —

The young and the old,

The fairest are ready to pawn

Their hearts for my gold.

They sue me — I laugh as I spurn

The slaves at my knee,

But in faith, and in fondness, I turn

Unto thee, unto thee!

“Now for the travelling, WIGGLE, my boy!” and I began, in a voice choked with emotion —

Away! for my heart knows no rest
 Since you taught it to feel;
 The secret must die in my breast
 I burn to reveal;
 The passion I may not * *

“I say, SNOB!” WIGGLE here interrupted the excited bard (just as I was about to break out into four lines so pathetic that they would drive you into hysterics). “I say — ahem — couldn’t you say that I was — a — military man, and that there was some danger of my life?”

“You a military man? — danger of your life? What the deuce do you mean?”

“Why,” said WIGGLE, blushing a good deal. “I told her I was going out — on — the — Ecuador — expedition.”

“You abominable young impostor,” I exclaimed. “Finish the poem for yourself!” And so he did, and entirely out of all metre, and bragged about the work at the Club as his own performance.

Poor WAGGLE fully believed in his friend’s genius, until one day last week he came with a grin on his countenance to the Club and said, “O, SNOB, I’ve made *such* a discovery! Going down to the skating to-day, whom should I see but WIGGLE walking with that splendid woman — that lady of illustrious family and immense fortune, MARY, you know, whom he wrote the beautiful verses about. She’s five-and-forty. She’s red hair. She’s a nose like a pump-handle. Her father made his fortune by keeping a ham-and-beef shop, — and WIGGLE’s going to marry her next week.”

“So much the better, WAGGLE, my young friend,” I exclaimed. “Better for the sake of womankind that this dangerous dog should leave off lady-killing — this Blue-Beard give up practice. Or, better rather for his own sake. For as there is not a word of truth in any of those prodigious love-stories which you used to swallow: nobody has been hurt ex-

cept WIGGLE himself, whose affections will now centre in the ham-and-beef shop. There *are* people, Mr. WAGGLE, who do these things in earnest, and hold a good rank in the world too. But these are not subjects for ridicule, and though certainly Snobs, are scoundrels likewise. Their cases go up to a higher Court."

CHAPTER XLI.

Club Snobs.

BACCHUS is the divinity to whom WAGGLE devotes his especial worship. "Give me wine, my boy," says he to his friend WIGGLE, who is prating about lovely woman; and holds up his glass full of the rosy fluid and winks at it portentously, and sips it, and smaks his lips after it, and meditates on it, as if he were the greatest of connoisseurs.

I have remarked this excessive wine-amateurship especially in youth. Snoblings from College, Fledglings from the army, Goslings from the public schools, who ornament our Clubs, are frequently to be heard in great force upon wine questions. "This bottle's corked," says SNOBLING; and Mr. SLY, the butler, taking it away, returns presently with the same wine in another jug, which the young amateur pronounces excellent. "Hang champagne!" says FLEDGLING, "it's only fit for gals and children. Give me pale sherry at dinner, and my twenty-three claret afterwards." "What's port now?" says GOSLING; "disgusting thick sweet stuff—where's the old dry wine one *used* to get?" Until the last twelvemonth, FLEDGLING drank small-beer at DOCTOR SWISHTAIL'S; and GOSLING used to get his dry old port at a gin-shop in Westminster—till he quitted that seminary, in 1844.

Anybody who has looked at the caricatures of thirty years ago, must remember how frequently bottle-noses, pimpled faces, and other Bardolphian features are introduced by the designer. They are much more rare now (in nature, and in pictures, therefore) than in those good old times; but there are still to be found amongst the youth of our Clubs, lads who

glory in drinking-bouts, and whose faces, quite sickly and yellow, for the most part are decorated with those marks which ROWLAND's Kalydor is said to efface. "I was so cut last night — old boy!" HOPKINS says to TOMKINS (with amiable confidence). "I tell you what we did. We breakfasted with JACK HERRING at twelve, and kept up with brandy and soda-water and weeds till four; then we toddled into the Park for an hour; then we dined and drank mulled Port till half-price; then we looked in for an hour at the Haymarket; then we came back to the Club, and had grills and whisky punch till all was blue. — Hullo, waiter! Get me a glass of cherry-brandy." Club waiters, the civillest, the kindest, the patientest of men, die under the infliction of these cruel young toppers. But if the reader wishes to see a perfect picture on the stage of this class of young fellows, I would recommend him to witness the ingenious comedy of *London Assurance* — the amiable heroes of which are represented, not only as drunkards and five-o'clock-in-the-morning men, but as showing a hundred other delightful traits of swindling, lying, and general debauchery, quite edifying to witness.

How different is the conduct of these outrageous youths to the decent behaviour of my friend, MR. PAPWORTHY; who says to POPPINS, the butler at the Club: —

Papworthy. POPPINS, I'm thinking of dining early; is there any cold game in the house?

Poppins. There's a game pie, Sir; there's cold grouse, Sir; there's cold pheasant, Sir; there's cold peacock, Sir; cold swan, Sir; cold ostrich, Sir; &c. &c. (as the case may be).

Papworthy. Hem! What's your best claret now, POPPINS? — in pints I mean.

Poppins. There's COOPER and MAGNUM's Laffitte, Sir; there's LATH and SAWDUST's St. Jullien, Sir; BUNG's Leoville is considered remarkably fine; and I think you'd like JUGGER's Chateau-Margaux.

Papworthy. Hum! — hah! — well — give me a crust of bread and a glass of beer. I'll only *lunch*, POPPINS.

CAPT. SHINDY is another sort of Club bore. Here you behold all the Club in an uproar about

"LOOK AT IT, SIR! IS IT COOKED, SIR? SMELL IT, SIR! IS IT MEAT FIT FOR A GENTLEMAN?" he roars out to the steward, who stands trembling before him, and who in vain tells him that the BISHOP OF BULLOCKSMITHY has just had three from the same loin. All the waiters in all the Club are huddled round the Captain's mutton-chop. He roars out the most horrible curses at JOHN for not bringing the pickles; he utters the most dreadful oaths because THOMAS has not arrived with the Harvey sauce; PETER comes tumbling with the water-jug over JEAMES, who is bringing "the glittering canisters with bread." Whenever SHINDY enters the room (such is the force of character) every table is deserted, every gentleman must dine as he best may, and all those big footmen are in terror.

He makes his account of it. He scolds, and is better waited upon in consequence. At the Club he has ten servants scudding about to do his bidding.

Poor MRS. SHINDY and the children are, meanwhile, in dingy lodgings somewhere, waited upon by a charity girl, in pattens.

CHAPTER XLII.

Club Snobs.

EVERY well-bred English female will sympathise with the subject of the harrowing tale, the history of SACKVILLE MAINE, I am now about to recount. The pleasures of Clubs have been spoken of: let us now glance for a moment at the dangers of those institutions, and for this purpose I must introduce you to my young acquaintance, SACKVILLE MAINE.

It was at a ball at the house of my respected friend, MRS. PERKINS, that I was introduced to this gentleman and his charming lady. Seeing a young creature before me in a white dress, with white satin shoes; with a pink ribbon, about a yard in breadth, flaming out as she twirled in a Polka in the

arms of MONSIEUR DE SPRINGBOCK, the German diplomatist; with a green wreath on her head, and the blackest hair this individual ever set eyes on — seeing, I say, before me a charming young woman, whisking beautifully in a beautiful dance, and presenting, as she wound and wound round the room, now a full face, then a three-quarter face, then a profile — a face, in fine, which, in every way you saw it, looked pretty, and rosy, and happy, I felt (as I trust) a not unbecoming curiosity regarding the owner of this pleasant countenance, and asked WAGLEY (who was standing by, in conversation with an acquaintance) Who was the lady in question?

“Which?” says WAGLEY.

“That one with the coal-black eyes,” I replied.

“Hush,” says he, and the gentleman with whom he was talking moved off, with rather a discomfited air.

“When he was gone WAGLEY burst out laughing. “*Coal-black eyes!*” said he; “you ’ve just hit it. That ’s MRS. SACKVILLE MAINE, and that was her husband who just went away. He ’s a coal-merchant, SNOB, my boy, and I have no doubt MR. PERKINS’S Wallsends are supplied from his wharf. He is in a flaming furnace when he hears coals mentioned. He and his wife and his mother are very proud of MRS. SACKVILLE’S family; she was a MISS CHUFF, daughter of CAPTAIN CHUFF, R.N. That is the widow; that stout woman, in crimson tabinet, battling about the odd trick with old MR. DUMPS, at the card-table.”

And so, in fact, it was. SACKVILLE MAINE (whose name is a hundred times more elegant, surely, than that of CHUFF) was blest with a pretty wife, and a genteel mother-in-law, both of whom some people may envy him.

Soon after his marriage the old lady was good enough to come and pay him a visit — just for a fortnight — at his pretty little cottage, Kennington Oval; and, such is her affection for the place, has never quitted it these four years. She has also brought her son, NELSON COLLINGWOOD CHUFF, to live with her; but he is not so much at home as his mamma,

going as a day-boy to Merchant Tailors' School, where he is getting a sound classical education.

If these beings, so closely allied to his wife, and so justly dear to her, may be considered as drawbacks to MAINE's happiness, what man is there that has not some things in life to complain of? And when I first knew MR. MAINE, no man seemed more comfortable than he. His cottage was a picture of elegance and comfort; his table and cellar were excellently and neatly supplied. There was every enjoyment, but no ostentation. The omnibus took him to business of a morning; the boat brought him back to the happiest of homes, where he would while away the long evenings by reading out the fashionable novels to the ladies as they worked; or accompany his wife on the flute (which he played elegantly); or in any one of the hundred pleasing and innocent amusements of the domestic circle. MRS. CHUFF covered the drawing-rooms with prodigious tapestries, the work of her hands. MRS. SACKVILLE had a particular genius for making covers of tape or net-work for these tapestried cushions. She could make home-made wines. She could make preserves and pickles. She had an album, into which, during the time of his courtship, SACKVILLE MAINE had written choice scraps of BYRON and MOORE's poetry, analogous to his own situation, and in a fine mercantile hand. She had a large manuscript receipt-book — every quality, in a word, which indicated a virtuous and well-bred English female mind.

"And as for NELSON COLLINGWOOD," SACKVILLE would say, laughing, "we couldn't do without him in the house. If he didn't spoil the tapestry we should be over-cushioned in a few months; and whom could we get but him to drink LAURA's home-made wine?" The truth is, the gents who came from the City to dine at the Oval could not be induced to drink it — in which fastidiousness, I myself, when I grew to be intimate with the family, confess that I shared.

"And yet, Sir, that green ginger has been drunk by some of England's proudest heroes," MRS. CHUFF would exclaim; "ADMIRAL LORD EXMOUTH tasted and praised it, Sir, on

board CAPTAIN CHUFF's ship, the *Nebuchadnezzar*, 74, at Algiers; and he had three dozen with him in the *Pitchfork* frigate, a part of which was served out to the men, before he went into his immortal action with the *Furibonde*, CAPTAIN CHOUFLEUR, in the Gulf of Panama."

All this, though the old dowager told us the story every day when the wine was produced, never served to get rid of any quantity of it — and the green ginger, though it had fired British tars for combat and victory, was not to the taste of us peaceful and degenerate gents of modern times.

I see SACKVILLE now, as on the occasion when presented by WAGLEY, I paid my first visit to him. It was in July — a Sunday afternoon — SACKVILLE MAINE was coming from church, with his wife on one arm, and his mother-in-law (in red tabinet, as usual) on the other. A half-grown, or hob-badehoyish footman, so to speak, walked after them, carrying their shining golden prayer-books — the ladies had splendid parasols with tags and fringes. MRS. CHUFF's great gold watch, fastened to her stomach, gleamed there like a ball of fire. NELSON COLLINGWOOD was in the distance, shying stones at an old horse on Kennington Common. 'T was on that verdant spot we met — nor can I ever forget the majestic courtesy of MRS. CHUFF, as she remembered having had the pleasure of seeing me at MRS. PERKINS's — nor the glance of scorn which she threw at an unfortunate gentleman who was preaching an exceedingly desultory discourse to a sceptical audience of omnibus-cads and nurse-maids, on a tub, as we passed by. "I cannot help it, Sir," says she; "I am the widow of an officer of Britain's Navy: I was taught to honour my Church and my King: and I cannot bear a Radical, or a Dissenter."

With these fine principles I found SACKVILLE MAINE impressed. "WAGLEY," said he, to my introducer, "if no better engagement, why shouldn't self and friend dine at the Oval? MR. SNOB, Sir, the mutton's coming off the spit at this very minute. LAURA and MRS. CHUFF, (he said *Laurar* and MRS. CHUFF; but I hate people who make remarks on these

peculiarities of pronunciation,) will be most happy to see you; and I can promise you a hearty welcome, and as good a glass of port-wine as any in England."

"This is better than dining at the Sarcophagus," thinks I to myself, at which club WAGLEY and I had intended to take our meal; and so we accepted the kindly invitation, whence arose afterwards a considerable intimacy.

Everything about this family and house was so good-natured, comfortable, and well-conditioned, that a Cynic would have ceased to growl there. MRS. LAURA was all graciousness and smiles, and looked to as great advantage in her pretty morning gown as in her dress robe at MRS. PERKINS'S. MRS. CHUFF fired off her stories about the *Nebuchadnezzar*, 74, the action between the *Pitchfork* and the *Furibonde* — the heroic resistance of CAPTAIN CHOUFLEUR, and the quantity of snuff he took, &c., &c.; which, as they were heard for the first time, were pleasanter than I have subsequently found them. SACKVILLE MAINE was the best of hosts. He agreed in everything everybody said, altering his opinions without the slightest reservation upon the slightest possible contradiction. He was not one of those beings who would emulate a SCHONBEIN or FRIAR BACON, or act the part of an incendiary towards the Thames, his neighbour — but a good, kind, simple, honest, easy fellow — in love with his wife — well-disposed to all the world — content with himself, content even with his mother-in-law. NELSON COLLINGWOOD, I remember, in the course of the evening, when whisky-and-water was for some reason produced, grew a little tipsy. This did not in the least move SACKVILLE'S equanimity. "Take him up-stairs, JOSEPH," said he to the hobbadehoy, "and — JOSEPH — don't tell his mamma."

What could make a man so happily disposed unhappy? What could cause discomfort, bickering, and estrangement in a family so friendly and united? Ladies, it was not my fault — it was MRS. CHUFF'S doing — but the rest of the tale you shall have on a future day.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Club Snobs.

THE misfortune which befel the simple and good-natured young SACKVILLE, arose entirely from that abominable Sarcophagus Club; and that he ever entered it was partly the fault of the present writer.

For seeing MRS. CHUFF, his mother-in-law, had a taste for the genteel — (indeed, her talk was all about LORD COLLINGWOOD, LORD GAMBIER, SIR JAHALEEL BRENTON, and the Gosport and Plymouth balls) — WAGLEY and I, according to our wont, trumped her conversation, and talked about Lords, Dukes, Marquises, and Baronets, as if those dignitaries were our familiar friends.

“LORD SEXTONBURY,” says I, “seems to have recovered her Ladyship’s death. He and the Duke were very jolly over their wine at the Sarcophagus last night; weren’t they, WAGLEY?”

“Good fellow, the Duke,” WAGLEY replied. “Pray Ma’am (to MRS. CHUFF), you who know the world and etiquette, will you tell me what ought a man to do in my case? Last June, His Grace, his son LORD CASTLERAMPANT, TOM SMITH, and myself were dining at the Club, when I offered the odds against *Daddy-long-legs* for the Derby — forty to one, in sovereigns only. His Grace took the bet, and of course I won. He has never paid me. Now, can I ask such a great man for a sovereign? — *One* more lump of sugar, if you please, my dear Madam.”

It was lucky WAGLEY gave her this opportunity to elude the question, for it prostrated the whole worthy family among whom we were. They telegraphed each other with wondering eyes. MRS. CHUFF’s stories about the naval nobility grew quite faint: and kind little MRS. SACKVILLE became uneasy, and went up-stairs to look at the children — not at that young monster, NELSON COLLINGWOOD, who was sleeping off the whisky-and-water — but at a couple of little ones who had

made their appearance at dessert, and of whom she and SACKVILLE were the happy parents.

The end of this and subsequent meetings with MR. MAINE was, that we proposed and got him elected as a member of the Sarcophagus Club.

It was not done without a deal of opposition — the secret having been whispered that the candidate was a coal-merchant. You may be sure some of the proud people and most of the parvenus of the Club were ready to black-ball him. We combated this opposition successfully, however. We pointed out to the parvenus that the LAMBTONS and the STUARTS sold coals: we mollified the proud by accounts of his good birth, good nature, and good behaviour; and WAGLEY went about on the day of election, describing with great eloquence, the action between the *Pitchfork* and the *Furibonde*, and the valour of CAPTAIN MAINE, our friend's father. There was a slight mistake in the narrative; but we carried our man, with only a trifling sprinkling of black beans in the boxes: BYLES's, of course, who black-balls everybody: and BUNG's, who looks down upon a coal-merchant, having himself lately retired from the wine trade.

Some fortnight afterwards I saw SACKVILLE MAINE under the following circumstances: —

He was showing the Club to his family. He had brought them thither in the light-blue fly, waiting at the Club door; with MRS. CHUFF's hobbadehoy footboy on the box, by the side of the flyman, in a sham livery. NELSON COLLINGWOOD; pretty MRS. SACKVILLE; MRS. CAPTAIN CHUFF (MRS. COM-MODORE CHUFF we call her), were all there; the latter, of course, in the vermilion tabinet, which, splendid as it is, is nothing in comparison to the splendour of the Sarcophagus. The delighted SACKVILLE MAINE was pointing out the beauties of the place to them. It seemed as beautiful as Paradise to that little party.

The Sarcophagus displays every known variety of architecture and decoration. The great library is Elizabethan; the small library is pointed Gothic; the dining-room is severe Doric; the strangers' room has an Egyptian look; the drawing-rooms are LOUIS QUATORZE (so called because the hideous ornaments displayed were used in the time of LOUIS QUINZE); the *cortile*, or hall, is Morisco-Italian. It is all over marble, maplewood, looking-glasses, arabesques, ormolu, and scagliola. Scrolls, ciphers, dragons, Cupids, polyanthus, and other flowers writhe up the walls in every kind of cornucopiosity. Fancy every gentleman in JULLIEN's band playing with all his might, and each performing a different tune; the ornaments at our Club, the Sarcophagus, so bewilder and affect me. Dazzled with emotions which I cannot describe, and which she dared not reveal, MRS. CHUFF, followed by her children and son-in-law, walked wondering amongst these blundering splendours.

In the great library (225 feet long by 150) the only man MRS. CHUFF saw, was TIGGS. He was lying on a crimson-velvet sofa, reading a French novel of PAUL DE KOCK. It was a very little book. He is a very little man. In that enormous hall he looked like a mere speck. As the ladies passed breathless and trembling in the vastness of the magnificent solitude, he threw a knowing, killing glance at the fair strangers, as much as to say, "Ain't I a fine fellow?" They thought so, I am sure.

"*Who is that?*" hisses out MRS. CHUFF, when we were about fifty yards off him at the other end of the room.

"TIGGS!" says I, in a similar whisper.

"Pretty comfortable this, isn't it, my dear?" says MAINE in a free and easy way to MRS. SACKVILLE; "all the magazines, you see — writing materials — new works — choice library, containing every work of importance — what have we here? — 'DUGDALE's Monasticon,' a most valuable, and I believe, entertaining book."

And proposing to take down one of the books for MRS. MAINE's inspection, he selected Volume VII., to which he was

attracted by the singular fact, that a brass door-handle grew out of the back. Instead of pulling out a book, however, he pulled open a cupboard, only inhabited by a lazy housemaid's broom and duster, at which he looked exceedingly discomfited — while NELSON COLLINGWOOD, losing all respect, burst into a roar of laughter.

"That 's the rummest book I ever saw," says NELSON. "I wish we 'd no others at Merchant Tailors'."

"Hush, NELSON," cries MRS. CHUFF, and we went into the other magnificent apartments.

How they did admire the drawing-room hangings, (pink and silver brocade, most excellent wear for London,) and calculated the price per yard; and revelled on the luxurious sofas; and gazed on the immeasurable looking-glasses.

"Pretty well to shave by, eh?" says MAINE to his mother-in-law. (He was getting more abominably conceited every minute). "Get away, SACKVILLE," says she, quite delighted, and threw a glance over her shoulder, and spread out the wings of the red tabinet, and took a good look at herself; so did MRS. SACKVILLE — just one, and I thought the glass reflected a very smiling, pretty creature.

But what 's a woman at a looking glass? Bless the little dears, it 's their place. They fly to it naturally. It pleases them, and they adorn it. What I like to see, and watch with increasing joy and adoration, is the Club *men* at the great looking-glasses. Old GILLS pushing up his collars and grinning at his own mottled face. HULKER looking solemnly at his great person, and tightening his coat to give himself a waist. FRED. MINCHIN simpering by as he is going out to dine, and casting upon the reflection of his white neck-cloth a pleased moony smile. What a deal of vanity that Club mirror has reflected, to be sure!

Well, the ladies went through the whole establishment with perfect pleasure. They beheld the coffee-rooms, and the little tables laid for dinner, and the gentlemen who were taking their lunch, and old JAWKINS thundering away as usual; they saw the reading-rooms, and the rush for the evening papers; they

saw the kitchens — those wonders of art — where the *Chef* was presiding over twenty pretty kitchen-maids, and ten thousand shining saucepans; and they got into the light-blue fly perfectly bewildered with pleasure.

SACKVILLE did not enter it, though little LAURA took the back seat on purpose, and left him the front place alongside of MRS. CHUFF's red tabinet.

"We have your favourite dinner," says she, in a timid voice; "won't you come, SACKVILLE?"

"I shall take a chop here to-day, my dear," SACKVILLE replied. "Home, JAMES." And he went up the steps of the Sarcophagus, and the pretty face looked very sad out of the carriage, as the blue fly drove away.

CHAPTER XLIV.

Club Snobs.

WHY — why did I and WAGLEY ever do so cruel an action, as to introduce young SACKVILLE MAINE into that odious Sarcophagus! Let our imprudence and his example be a warning to other gents; let his fate and that of his poor wife be remembered by every British female. The consequences of his entering the Club were as follow: —

One of the first vices the unhappy wretch acquired in this abode of frivolity was that of *smoking*. Some of the dandies of the Club, such as the MARQUIS OF MACABAW, LORD DOODEEN, and fellows of that high order, are in the habit of indulging in this propensity up-stairs in the billiard-rooms of the Sarcophagus — and, partly to make their acquaintance, partly from a natural aptitude for crime, SACKVILLE MAINE followed them, and became an adept in the odious custom. Where it is introduced into a family I need not say how sad the consequences are, both to the furniture and the morals. SACKVILLE smoked in his dining-room at home, and caused an agony to his wife and mother-in-law which I do not venture to describe.

He then became a professed *billiard-player*, wasting hours upon hours at that amusement; betting freely, playing tolerably, losing awfully to CAPTAIN SPOT and COL. CANNON. He played matches of a hundred games with these gentlemen, and would not only continue until four or five o'clock in the morning at this work, but would be found at the Club of a forenoon, indulging himself to the detriment of his business, the ruin of his health, and the neglect of his wife.

From billiards to whist is but a step — and when a man gets to whist and five pounds on the rubber, my opinion is, that it is all up with him. How was the coal business to go on, and the connexion of the firm to be kept up, and the senior partner always at the card-table?

Consorting now with genteel persons and Pall Mall bucks, SACKVILLE became ashamed of his snug little residence in Kennington Oval — and transported his family to Pimlico — where, though MRS. CHUFF, his mother-in-law, was at first happy, as the quarter was elegant and near her Sovereign, poor little LAURA and the children found a woeful difference. Where were her friends who came in with their work of a morning? — At Kennington and in the vicinity of Clapham. Where were her children's little playmates? — On Kennington Common. The great thundering carriages that roared up and down the drab-coloured streets of the new quarter, contained no friends for the sociable little LAURA. The children that paced the squares, attended by a *Bonne* or a prim governess, were not like those happy ones that flew kites, or played hopscotch, on the well-beloved old Common. And ah! what a difference at Church, too! — between St. Benedict's of Pimlico, with open seats, service in sing-song — tapers — albs — surplices — garlands and processions, and the honest old ways of Kennington! The footmen, too, attending St. Benedict's were so splendid and enormous, that JAMES, MRS. CHUFF's boy, trembled amongst them, and said he would give warning rather than carry the books to that church any more.

The furnishing of the house was not done without expense.

And, ye gods! what a difference there was between SACKVILLE's dreary French banquets in Pimlico, and the jolly dinners at the Oval! No more legs of mutton, no more of "the best port-wine in England;" but *entrées* on plate, and dismal twopenny champagne, and waiters in gloves, and the Club bucks for company — among whom MRS. CHUFF was uneasy and MRS. SACKVILLE quite silent.

Not that he dined at home often. The wretch had become a perfect epicure, and dined commonly at the Club with the gormandizing clique there; with old DR. MAW, COLONEL CRAMLEY, (who is as lean as a greyhound and has jaws like a jack,) and the rest of them. Here you might see the wretch, tippling Sillery champagne and gorging himself with French viands; and I often looked with sorrow from my table (on which cold meat, the Club small-beer, and a half-pint of Marsala form the modest banquet), and sighed to think it was my work.

And there were other beings present to my repentant thoughts. Where's his wife, thought I? Where's poor, good, kind little LAURA? At this very moment — it's about the nursery bed-time, and while yonder good-for-nothing is swilling his wine — the little ones are at LAURA's knees lisping their prayers; and she is teaching them to say — "PRAY GOD BLESS PAPA!"

When she has put them to bed her day's occupation is gone; and she is utterly lonely all night, and sad, and waiting for him.

O for shame! O for shame! Go home, thou idle tippler.

How SACKVILLE lost his health; how he lost his business; how he got into scrapes; how he got into debt; how he became a railroad director; how the Pimlico house was shut up; how he went to Boulogne, — all this I could tell, only I am too much ashamed of my part of the transaction. They returned to England, because, to the surprise of everybody, MRS. CHUFF came down with a great sum of money (which nobody knew she had saved) and paid his liabilities. He is in England; but at Kennington. His name is taken off the books of

the Sarcophagus long ago. When we meet, he crosses over to the other side of the street; and I don't call, as I should be sorry to see a look of reproach or sadness in LAURA's sweet face.

Not, however, all evil, as I am proud to think, has been the influence of the Snob of England upon Clubs in general: — CAPTAIN SHINDY is afraid to bully the waiters any more, and eats his mutton-chop without moving ACHERON. GOBE-MOUCHE does not take more than two papers at a time for his private reading. TIGGS does not ring the bell and cause the library-waiter to walk about a quarter of a mile in order to give him Vol. II., which lies on the next table. GROWLER has ceased to walk from table to table in the coffee-room, and inspect what people are having for dinner. TROTTY VECK takes his own umbrella from the hall — the cotton one, and SIDNEY SCRAPER's paletot lined with silk has been brought back by JOBBINS, who entirely mistook it for his own. WAGGLE has discontinued telling stories about the ladies he has killed. SNOOKS does not any more think it gentlemanlike to blackball attorneys. SNUFFLER no longer publicly spreads out his great red cotton pocket-handkerchief before the fire, for the admiration of two hundred gentlemen; and if one Club Snob has been brought back to the paths of rectitude; and if one poor JOHN has been spared a journey or a scolding — say, friends and brethren, if these sketches of Club Snobs have been in vain?

CHAPTER LAST.

How it is that we have come to No. 45 of this present series of papers, my dear friends and brother Snobs, I hardly know — but for a whole mortal year have we been together, prattling, and abusing the human race; and were we to live for a hundred years more, I believe there is plenty of subject for conversation in the enormous theme of Snobs.

The national mind is awakened to the subject. Letters pour in every day, conveying marks of sympathy; directing the attention of the Snob of England to races of Snobs yet undescribed. "Where are your Theatrical Snobs; your Commercial Snobs; your Medical and Chirurgical Snobs; your Official Snobs; your Legal Snobs; your Artistical Snobs; your Musical Snobs; your Sporting Snobs?" write my esteemed correspondents: "Surely you are not going to miss the Cambridge Chancellor election, and omit showing up your Don Snobs who are coming, cap in hand, to a young Prince of six-and-twenty, and to implore him to be the chief of their renowned University?" writes a friend who seals with the signet of the Cam and Isis Club: "Pray, pray," cries another, "now the Operas are opening, give us a lecture about Omnibus Snobs." Indeed, I should like to write a chapter about the Snobbish Dons very much, and another about the Snobbish Dandies. Of my dear Theatrical Snobs I think with a pang; and I can hardly break away from some Snobbish artists, with whom I have long, long intended to have a palaver.

But what's the use of delaying? When these were done there would be fresh Snobs to pourtray. The labour is endless. No single man could complete it. Here are but fifty-two bricks — and a pyramid to build. It is best to stop. As JONES always quits the room as soon as he has said his good thing, — as CINCINNATUS and GENERAL WASHINGTON both retired into private life in the height of their popularity, — as PRINCE ALBERT, when he laid the first stone of the Exchange, left the bricklayers to complete that edifice, and went home to his royal dinner, — as the poet BUNN comes forward at the end of the season, and with feelings too tumultuous to describe, blesses his *kyind* friends over the footlights: so, friends, in the flush of conquest and the splendour of victory, amid the shouts and the plaudits of a people — triumphant yet modest — the Snob of England bids ye farewell.

But only for a season. Not for ever. No, no. There is one celebrated author whom I admire very much — who has been taking leave of the public any time these ten years in his

prefaces, and always comes back again when everybody is glad to see him. How can he have the heart to be saying good-bye, so often? I believe that BUNN is affected when he blesses the people. Parting is always painful. Even the familiar bore is dear to you. I should be sorry to shake hands even with JAWKINS for the last time. I think a well-constituted convict, on coming home from transportation, ought to be rather sad when he takes leave of Van Diemen's Land. When the curtain goes down on the last night of a pantomime, poor old clown must be very dismal, depend on it. Ha! with what joy he rushes forward on the evening of the 26th of December next, and says — "How are you? — Here we are!" But I am growing too sentimental: — to return to the theme.

THE NATIONAL MIND IS AWAKENED TO THE SUBJECT OF SNOBS. The word Snob has taken a place in our honest English Vocabulary. We can't define it, perhaps. We can't say what it is, any more than we can define Wit, or Humour, or Humbug; but we *know* what it is. Some weeks since, happening to have the felicity to sit next to a young lady at a hospitable table, where poor old JAWKINS was holding forth in a very absurd pompous manner, I wrote upon the spotless damask "S — B," and called my neighbour's attention to the little remark.

That young lady smiled. She knew it at once. Her mind straight-way filled up the two letters concealed by apostrophic reserve, and I read in her assenting eyes that she knew JAWKINS was a Snob. You seldom get them to make use of the word as yet, it is true; but it is inconceivable how pretty an expression their little smiling mouths assume when they speak it out. If any young lady doubts, just let her go up to her own room, look at herself steadily in the glass, and say "Snob." If she tries this simple experiment, my life for it, she will smile, and own that the word becomes her mouth amazingly. A pretty little round word, all composed of soft letters, with a hiss at the beginning, just to make it piquant, as it were.

JAWKINS, meanwhile, went on blundering and bragging and boring, quite unconsciously. And so he will, no doubt, go on roaring and braying to the end of time, or at least so long as people will hear him. You cannot alter the nature of men and Snobs by any force of satire; as, by laying ever so many stripes on a donkey's back you can't turn him into a zebra.

But we can warn the neighbourhood that the person whom they and JAWKINS admire is an impostor. We can apply the Snob test to him, and try whether he is conceited and a quack, whether pompous and lacking humility — whether uncharitable and proud of his narrow soul. How does he treat a great man — how regard a small one? How does he comport himself in the presence of His Grace the Duke; and how in that of SMITH, the tradesman?

And it seems to me that all English society is cursed by this mammoniacal superstition; and that we are sneaking and bowing and cringing on the one hand, or bullying and scorning on the other, from the lowest to the highest. My wife speaks with great circumspection — “proper pride,” she calls it — to our neighbour the tradesman's lady; and she, I mean MRS. SNOB, — ELIZA — would give one of her eyes to go to Court, as her cousin the Captain's wife did. She, again, is a good soul, but it costs her agonies to be obliged to confess that we live in Upper Thompson Street, Somer's Town. And though I believe in her heart MRS. WHISKERINGTON is fonder of us than of her cousins, the SMIGSMAGS, you should hear how she goes on prattling about LADY SMIGSMAG, — and “I said to SIR JOHN, my dear JOHN;” and about the SMIGSMAGS' house and parties in Hyde Park Terrace.

LADY SMIGSMAG, when she meets ELIZA, — who is a sort of a kind of a species of a connexion of the family, pokes out one finger, which my wife is at liberty to embrace in the most cordial manner she can devise. But, oh, you should see her ladyship's behaviour on her first-chop dinner-party days, when LORD and LADY LONGEARS come!

I can bear it no longer — this diabolical invention of gentility which kills natural kindliness and honest friendship. Proper pride, indeed! Rank and precedence, forsooth! The table of ranks and degrees is a lie, and should be flung into the fire. Organise rank and precedence! that was well for the masters of ceremonies of former ages. Come forward, some great marshal, and organise EQUALITY in society, and your rod shall swallow up all the juggling old court gold-sticks. If this is not gospel truth — if the world does not tend to this — if hereditary-great-man worship is not a humbug and an idolatry — let us have the STUARTS back again, and crop the Free Press's ears in the pillory.

If ever our cousins the SMIGSMAGS asked me to meet LORD LONGEARS, I would like to take an opportunity after dinner and say, in the most good-natured way in the world: — Sir, Fortune makes you a present of a number of thousand pounds every year. The ineffable wisdom of our ancestors has placed you as a chief and hereditary legislator over me. Our admirable Constitution (the pride of Britons and envy of surrounding nations) obliges me to receive you as my senator, superior, and guardian. Your eldest son, FITZ-HEEHAW, is sure of a place in Parliament; your younger sons, the DE BRAYS, will kindly condescend to be post captains and lieutenant-colonels, and to represent us in foreign courts, or to take a good living when it falls convenient. These prizes our admirable Constitution (the pride and envy of, &c.) pronounces to be your due; without count of your dulness, your vices, your selfishness; or your entire incapacity and folly. Dull as you may be (and we have as good a right to assume that my lord is an ass, as the other proposition, that he is an enlightened patriot); — dull, I say, as you may be, no one will accuse you of such monstrous folly, as to suppose that you are indifferent to the good luck which you possess, or have any inclination to part with it. No — and patriots as we are, under happier circumstances, SMITH and I, I have no doubt, were we dukes ourselves, would stand by our order.

We would submit good-naturedly to sit in a high place.

We would acquiesce in that admirable Constitution (pride and envy of, &c.) which made us chiefs and the world our inferiors; we would not cavil particularly at that notion of hereditary superiority which brought so many simple people cringing to our knees. May be we would rally round the Corn-Laws; we would make a stand against the Reform Bill; we would die rather than repeal the acts against Catholics and Dissenters; we would, by our noble system of class-legislation, bring Ireland to its present admirable condition.

But SMITH and I are not Earls as yet. We don't believe that it is for the interest of SMITH's army that young DE BRAY should be a Colonel at five-and-twenty, — of SMITH's diplomatic relations that LORD LONGEARS should go Ambassador to Constantinople, — of our politics, that LONGEARS should put his hereditary foot into them.

This bowing and cringing SMITH believes to be the act of Snobs; and he will do all in his might and main to be a Snob and to submit to Snobs no longer. To LONGEARS he says, "We can't help seeing, LONGEARS, that we are as good as you. We can spell even better; we can think quite as rightly; we will not have you for our master, or black your shoes any more. Your footmen do it, but they are paid; and the fellow who comes to get a list of the company when you give a banquet or a dancing breakfast at Longueoreille House, gets money from the newspapers for performing that service. But for us, thank you for nothing, LONGEARS, my boy, and we don't wish to pay you any more than we owe. We will take off our hats to WELLINGTON because he is WELLINGTON; but to you — who are you?"

I am sick of Court Circulars. I loathe *haut-ton* intelligence. I believe such words as Fashionable, Exclusive, Aristocratic, and the like, to be wicked unchristian epithets, that ought to be banished from honest vocabularies. A court system, that sends men of genius to the second-table, I hold to be a Snobbish system. A Society that sets up to be polite, and ignores Arts and Letters, I hold to be a Snobbish Society. You, who despise your neighbour, are a Snob; you, who forget your

own friends, meanly to follow after those of a higher degree, are a Snob; you, who are ashamed of your poverty, and blush for your calling, are a Snob; as are you who boast of your pedigree, or are proud of your wealth.

To laugh at such is *Mr. Punch's* business. May he laugh honestly, hit no foul blow, and tell the truth when at his very broadest grin — never forgetting that if Fun is good, Truth is still better, and Love best of all.

THE END.

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